



The History of Forsyth

By Howard Walters and Russell Sawyer



Howard Walters, 1973



Russell Sawyer, 1920

With an Introduction by Tina Horve and a preface by Janet (Walters) Wood

The progress of Forsyth from a small village to the community it is today involved many people.

Howard Walters and Russell Sawyer spent countless hours capturing the history and documenting the people, places and stories which make our hometown a special place.

I am proud to consider myself a native of Forsyth. I hope the readers and citizens enjoy the history of “our village.”

-Janet (Walters) Wood

Introduction

By Tina Horve

I discovered Howard Walters' *History of Forsyth, Illinois* in 2021 when doing local history research at the Decatur Public Library. The pages had been scanned and were stored on the library's server in several different PDF files. The files included pages in draft form with handwritten notes, duplicates of a few pages, and material regarding Mr. Walters' and Mr. Sawyer's attempts at getting the book printed in the late 1980s.

This material provides a much-needed update to local Forsyth History, and Harold Walters and Russell Sawyer have included many details regarding locations, businesses, and community members.

After speaking with Mr. Walters' daughter, Janet, to get permission to work on, print out, and distribute copies of this history, we decided the best option was to leave the work exactly as Howard left it. Since the material was still in draft form, Howard did not have the opportunity to correct many of his errors; a fact which he notes in the book. The only changes made to the documents that Harold and Russell left are:

- A title page was added.
- A note from Howard's daughter, Janet Walters Wood was added.
- Missing page numbers were added to all pages after page 62 which were unnumbered in the original PDF files.
- Note: There is no page 41.
- Howard's publication material has been added.

I hope you enjoy reading this updated *History of Forsyth, Illinois*, and I know that future local history scholars will be extremely grateful to Howard Walters and Russell Sawyer for the time, effort, and passion for their local community that they have poured into this book.

Tina Horve

2023

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PREFACE

Information for this History of Forsyth was taken from two Histories of Macon County, 1890 and 1930, much of it from the 1911 "Forsyth and Its People", from the centennial history of the Methodist church, the Baptist church material, from church members, from two local historians in and near Forsyth, and from the Rural Schools History 1978.

Newspaper clippings were of much help especially with regards to the new developing Hickory Point Mall. Detailed telephone conversations with over 50 people and replies to letters were also helpful. Many historical facts were obtained from the Local History Room in the Decatur Library as well as information from over several hundred telephone calls over a period of four or more years, besides many hours in writing and rewriting and organizing the well over 85 write ups in this history. Mention should also be made of the work of having it all typed.

A previous history "Forsyth and Its People" (1852-1911) was written 70 years ago.

Now, 70 years later, we conclude work on another history of Forsyth in the year 1982. This year will be remembered as the year the 52 American hostages were released and Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as our 40th president.

This has been written to preserve our local history for all who are interested. It is our hope that someone later will bring this history up to date in their time as we have done in our time.

As we stop to wonder about the future, we also think back to the past and come to some realization of how we got to where we are now in the year 1982.

We offer you herewith, our best efforts which we hope will meet with your approval. Many of you who will read this history have contributed to it in some way.

HISTORY OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL AND FORSYTH

Forsyth is a child of the Illinois Central Railroad and a brief history of its line of ancestry may be fitting at this time.

The idea of a North and South Railroad across the state was first suggested in 1832 by Lieutenant Governor A. H. Jenkins.

Sidney Barnes, United States Senator from Illinois, tried to get the government interested in a railroad through central Illinois, but it was not until 1847, when Stephan A. Douglas, was sent to the U.S. Senate that the proposition looked favorable. In 1850, a bill was introduced by him and ratified by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Fillmore. It granted to the state of Illinois, alternate sections of public land for 6 miles on each side of the proposed railroad from Cairo to Galena, and from Chicago to a junction with the Main line.

When the Illinois Assembly met on January 1, 1851, the members were confronted with the problem as to how to utilize the Federal Land Grant.

The plan of creating a private corporation and transfer to it the land grant under certain restrictions and with certain payments to the state. Under this plan, the company formed would assume entire responsibility for the completion of the railroad.

The bill approving and granting this charter was passed and signed by Governor French. The Illinois Central Railroad organized and went to work. They had plenty to do. Surveyors began running lines. The labor department went into the market at the seaboard, hiring men from Ireland and Germany who had just landed. The land department put on an intensive selling campaign. They made attractive offers to settlers: a small down payment in cash deferred obligations at low rate of interest, a nearby market for

the farm products raised-a bond was given for a deed to be given when the land was paid for, and there were no taxes levied until the buyer received his deed.

This campaign was a success and all the land in this locality was sold before 1866 at prices from eight to twelve dollars per acre.

The rails were laid from the North to Decatur in 1854, and the trains began running. The first Illinois Central Train went through Decatur from Clinton, Illinois on October 18, 1854.

The northern road ran through wild country. The track had to be patrolled and maintained, so houses were built along the track. These houses sheltered the section foremen and the crews. At about the same intervals, a siding was built, also to make good the road's promise of a shipping point and grain market. A set of scales was installed and cribs built. If no individual became a grain buyer, the railroad did the buying. This was the case at the point that we know as Forsyth. The railroad was the grain buyer for perhaps ten years or until the village was platted in 1864.

There was one man, Edward O. Smith of Decatur, who had a close connection with the Illinois Central and the village of Forsyth. He was a Macon County pioneer. He was born in Maryland, learned the carpenter trade and came to Decatur in 1837. He worked at his trade, saved his money, invested it in farm and city property, was elected to the Illinois Senate and was a member when the Illinois Central Charter was being considered. He naturally favored the building of that road and was able to be of service.

When the first railroad survey was made through Macon County

it missed Decatur. It crossed the river near the present village of Harriatown. Edward O. Smith and others got busy and persuaded the company to build through Decatur. As soon as the line was fixed, E. O. Smith began buying Illinois Central land. Among other railroad lands, he bought the North half of Section 14 in Hickory Point Township and Robert Forsyth, the General Freight Agent of the Illinois Central, bought the South half of this same section. The purchase was made in 1856. The railroad line ran across Section 14 and about $3/8$ of a mile from the west section line.

The road put in a siding and a platform on the west side of the railroad line, and also a set of scales and some cribs. This switch was named Forsyth in honor of Robert Forsyth. Mr. Forsyth built a house and set out an orchard and shade trees on the north side of his farm and near the tracks. This house was a good house for its day. Mr. Forsyth moved his family from Chicago soon after it was completed and lived in it for a year or two. However, his family did not like this new country so they moved back to Chicago and the farm was sold a few years later.

Edward O. Smith was a shrewd and farsighted man, and grasped at every opportunity to add to his advantage. He used his influence with the Illinois Central to have the section foremen's house built on the right of way inside his farm lines. The road had chosen a site $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and had unloaded building material and dug a well, but they favored Mr. Smith and built the section house where he wanted it. So it was a stand off. Robert Forsyth had the siding, grain loading point and the station. Smith had the section house.

EARLY RESIDENTS

ROBERT FORSYTH

Forsyth was named in honor of Col. Robert Forsyth, first general agent of the Illinois Central Railroad. Col. Forsyth owned the South half section 14 on the North half of which the village is located. He resided on that land before the village was established and he was intimately associated with E. O. Smith, who owned the North half of the section and platted the village. It was natural and appropriate, therefore, that his name should be given to the area.

Col. Forsyth built the house to the east of the Illinois Central and south of the village. The place attracted attention because of the number of evergreen trees. They were the first ever planted in this vicinity. The old Forsyth house, on the Patterson farm, was torn down in the early 1970's.

GEORGE SHAFFER

The first residence in Forsyth was a small house built by George Shaffer on the lot at the N.E. corner of Elwood and Ruehl streets. It was a crude affair, as all pioneer houses were. It consisted of two rooms and a small "lean-to" kitchen. In this house Mr. Shaffer, the town's first groceryman, conducted a small store and, for a long time, kept the post office. The exact date of the erection of this structure is not known, but it is believed to have been built before the town was platted in 1864 as the oldest residents say it was there before they came. The building was remodeled and enlarged at various times and used as a residence and a store by different persons.

George Shaffer disposed of his business to John F. Shaw and son, who sold to S. R. Gher, who disposed of the store to Edward

Wellepp, who after doing business there for two years, disposed of the store to J. O. Hall, who was in charge until the building burned prior to 1890.

George Shaffer's daughter, Mrs. George Dalziel of Alta, Iowa, furnished these few facts concerning him. He was born Nov. 5, 1828 and married March 6, 1857. She stated she did not know the exact date he came to Forsyth, but they moved to Iowa in March of 1875. He died in Carthage, MO. on October 7, 1902 and is buried there.

In 1868 George Shaffer bought lot #1 just west of the original town. He surveyed part of it into town lots and named it Shaffer's Addition. Mr. Shaffer gave the ground where the original M. E. Church was built. He built a house on the west side of this addition.

Henry Reeser lived in the Shaffer house on Ruehl street from 1902 until his death in 1922 when the house was sold to Henry Dial who, some years later, sold it to J. A. Lake.

THE OLD TOWN WELL

Some years ago, many people of Forsyth had no well at home and used the town well located midway on the south side of Ruehl between Elwood and Smith streets.

Many years ago, cattle may have drank at the water tank at the old town well before being loaded into railroad cars for shipment. Some said the cattle were watered because they were thirsty. Others hinted it was a more mercenary reason since the cattle would weigh more when they crossed the scales.

The old wooden cover for the old well has been replaced by a concrete platform with a welded pipe railing around it. The

old water trough and tank is no longer there.

The older inhabitants used to say that anyone who drank from the town well and later left town would come back again to Forsyth. However, now that the new water system has been installed in the village, small wells are no longer needed.

• STOCKYARDS

The Forsyth stockyards were on Illinois Central Railroad property on the north side of the east end of Ruhl street. The two stock pens were made of a heavy wooden post and board fence, at least 6 feet high with enough space for two car loads of cattle and a loading ramp which let up to the cattle car on the tracks.

The stockyard at Forsyth is no more. Livestock is now hauled directly to sale barns and meat packing plants by truck.

GRAIN BUYERS

The first grain buyer in Forsyth was the Illinois Central Railroad and at that time there was no elevator. Farmers scooped the grain into the cars by hand. As is well known, the Illinois Central became, by terms of its charter from the state, the largest landowners in Illinois.

The most pressing need of the Illinois Central, after the road had been built, was to develop business for it. To develop business, it was necessary to put the land along the line of the railroad into cultivation. Accordingly, the land was sold to settlers and the railroad took from the farmers the grain they raised in lieu of cash which was a scarce article.

NATHAN T. FITCH

Around the year 1864 or before, Nathan T. Fitch built a house in the extreme south block and lot adjoining the Illinois Central Railroad. His house was large enough to contain living quarters in addition to a store room. He painted his house red and it was called the "red front" as long as it stood. Mr. Fitch operated a grocery store and was a grain buyer and became the first postmaster in July, 1865. After a few years, he sold out and moved away.

DEXTER CLARK

The Dexter Clark Elevator was built and run by H. C. Mowry after coming to Forsyth in 1867. This elevator was located along the Illinois Central Railway just north of Cox street.

H. C. Mowry's office was on the south side of Cox street next to the railroad property. The home office of Dexter Clark was in Rhode Island.

The elevator and the Mowry grain office were still standing in 1891 and may have been torn down some years later.

CHARLES E. RUEHL

In the late 1860's, Charles Ruehl built an elevator and opened a lumber yard in Forsyth. He later built a residence on the northeast corner of Smith & Fitch street. He was appointed Illinois Central Railroad agent and served in that capacity when the Illinois Central Railroad built its own station. His son, Earnest Ruehl, became the first telegraph operator.

Day Sons and Company bought out the elevator and business of Charles Ruehl and built a new elevator in 1888. Possibly sometime after 1890, the original Ruehl grain office was moved

from along the Illinois Central Railroad, in the south part of Forsyth, to across the street from the IOOF Hall. It became the two west rooms of the home of the Malott family. This later, during World War II, became the home of Henry Eddings and is now, with remodeling and modernizing, the home of John & Margaret Green. The home is located on the southeast corner of Smith and Moon streets.

In 1878, Henry C. Mowry moved his headquarters to Decatur. Later that year, he returned to Forsyth and made it his home. Mr. Mowry lived in one of the older houses in Forsyth. The house was built in 1864 by Dr. Baxter, who lived in it and practiced medicine for a year or two prior to his death. Mr. Mowry lived there until his death on February 10, 1908.

Mr. Mowry was married to Henrietta Flood on August 22, 1872. They had two children, Dr. Albert E., a Chicago physician, and Alfred Henry, who died at 6 years of age. Mrs. Henrietta M. Mowry lived in the Mowry home in Forsyth until her death in 1933.

Some years later, the business and plant were sold to J. B. Good of Bearsdale, who later sold out to the Crocker Elevator Co. of Maroa.

On July 1, 1901, Lynden P. Bowden came to Forsyth as manager of the Crocker Elevator. He remained there until the elevator was sold to the Shellabarger Elevator Co. of Decatur in 1905. He retained the position of manager under the new owners and continued in the position until leaving Forsyth in 1914 to move to another elevator.

Douglas Williams came to Forsyth as elevator manager and lived with his wife and four children in the Ruehl home which had just been vacated by the Bowden family.

Victor Dewein Sr., who formerly was in the grain business in Warrensburg and Decatur, took over the management of the Forsyth Elevator in 1921 and ran it along with the Emery Elevator until his death some years later.

In 1926, Victor C. Dewein Jr., succeeded to the management of the two elevators. The increase in the demand for ground and mixed feeds made it necessary, around 1938, to make the north end of the Forsyth Elevator into a feed mill. Later in 1942, a large sacked feed warehouse was built to the west of the elevator. A year or so later, an addition was built on to the north.

Mixed feed for livestock was made up for customers in a large area around Forsyth including shipments to Chicago.

The elevator and feed mill burned down in December, 1945. The Forsyth Lumber Co. had a fenced-in builders supply yard where the elevator stood. A large ranch style home now stands where the old grain office was and an oil company bulk plant is on the south part of the property.

CHARLES FREDERICK WEILEPP

Charles Weilepp was born Dec. 9, 1819 near Halle, Germany. Mr. Weilepp was married to Eva Christina Hyer in the year 1843. In 1851, with his wife and children, he came to America and landed in New York. Mr. Weilepp came to Illinois in 1858 and later to Forsyth in 1885.

Edward, his second son, was the owner of a general store in Forsyth. His marriage to Miss Emma Mowry, niece of Henry C.

Mowry, occurred in 1881. He later moved to St. John, Kansas.

David Weillepp, the next oldest son, was married to Miss Ida Moon of Forsyth.. Two sons were born to them, Hugh and Harry. For a number of years, David Weillepp was a farmer. He later moved to Maroa where he owned and ran a hardware store before and during World War 1.

Laura, Mr. Weillepp's youngest daughter, became the wife of John McKinley in 1881. They lived 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Forsyth. This farm is still owned by one of the McKinley family. To Laura and John McKinley were born 6 children. James married Ruby Malene (this union produced 2 children - Evelyn, who married Wayne Woodcock and Walter. Esther married Arthur Benton, Maude married Albert Benton, Walter married Fay Reynolds, Nellie married Clarence Berry, and Mabel. Mabel and her mother moved to Forsyth in 1912. They lived in the Frank Brown house until Mabel's marriage to A. D. Tillman. Mabel and Mr. Tillman built a new home along Route 51 southeast of Forsyth.. Mr. Tillman was the Illinois Central agent for over 40 years.

ARTHUR G. BENTON

Arthur Benton was born Sept. 9, 1825, near Columbus, Ohio. On Jan. 14, 1847, at French Grant, Ohio, he was married to Elizabeth Kettle. Of this union, 8 children were born. One of these 8 children, Victor, born Sept. 26, 1854, accompanied his father to Illinois in 1867. They made the journey in a wagon.

Mr. Benton owned and operated a grocery store in Sugar Grove, Ohio, where Nov. 7, 1862, his wife died and is buried in Powell, Ohio. Soon after his marriage, Feb. 26, 1864, to Miss Emma Rutherford, he moved to Illinois and engaged in farm-

ing until 1878, when he bought the grocery store of Joseph Rue. Mr. Benton lived in the first house north of the Benton store and ran the grocery business. He died May 12, 1894. His wife, Emma, lived in that house for 33 years, until her death in Aug. 26, 1927.

In 1875, Victor W. Benton was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Stewart. Seven children were born to them. Maud, a music teacher in Forsyth; Lyman, bank cashier of Cassody, Kansas; Albert, who married Maud McKinley, (they had four daughters-Marion, who married Voris Conner and later moved to Florida, Dorothy of Kankakee, Virginia, a secretary and now retired, Kathleen, who married Elbert Stone); Robert Benton, who later moved to Decatur, (he had two children, Charlotte and Victor); Arthur Benton, who later was in business with his father, (he married Esther McKinley and they had three sons, Arthur Jr., Wayne and Paul); Fred Benton, a graduate of the University of Illinois, was a civil engineer with the Illinois Central Railroad. He served in World War 1 in France. After the war, he made his home in New Jersey; Edna Benton attended Illinois Normal University and was a registered nurse in Decatur Hospital. She later retired and lived at home.

Victor Benton in 1880, several years after farming, took over the grocery business of his father. Huckster wagons from the Benton store served the area around Forsyth for a number of years. Farm products such as eggs, butter, chickens, etc. were taken in exchange for grocery items from the store. Robert and Albert Benton drove the wagons. Victor continued in that business until two years before his death in February of 1912, when his son, Arthur, took over the grocery store. This made three

generations of Bentons in the same business.

A new store building was built on the west end of the Benton store lot, next to the M. E. Church. This was around 1913. Later, Arthur Benton bought the dance hall and confectionery. This was around 1930. He ran the dance hall and the grocery business in the building formerly used as a confectionery. Arthur Benton died Dec. 5, 1937.

The Benton home on Ruehl street was small, at first consisting of the two west rooms of the present structure. This part of the house was probably built by George Shaffer. Victor Benton added two rooms to the east, on the ground level, and later put on the second floor making the house a large two-story nine room house. Other alterations and improvements were made some years later.

SAMUEL WEAVER

Samuel Weaver was born in Pennsylvanie, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Weaver. He was the fourth of 10 children. After his fathers death in 1842, Samuel stayed on the farm and later went to Carlisle, Pennsylvania and became a blacksmiths apprentice. He married Sarah Sailer in 1850 and came to Hickory Point Township.

The newlywed couple had a horse and wagon and \$2.50 when they arrived in October 1850. They bought \$1.00 worth of flour and for another dollar, a half a hog. Samuel Weaver later hauled plow parts from Peoria to a local factory. He also took produce to St. Louis, Missouri.

He immediately began to buy land and was primarily interested in raising cattle. Most of the land purchased was in Macon County. However, some was purchased in adjoining counties

and as far away as the state of Kansas. His holdings in 1901, were said to be worth a half million dollars. This comprised more than 5000 acres.

Mr. Weaver died suddenly from a heart attack in March of 1905. The Crossmans, northeast of Warrensburg, the Keisters, and the Lehmans, north of Forsyth and near LaPlase were heirs to his estate. Samuel Weaver's son, Charles, was also an heir and some of his descendants owned the land where the Hickory Point Mall is today.

LUALLEN FAMILY

George Luallen, after spending his early life buying and selling horses in Southern Illinois, bought the farm south of Cox street between Elwood and the Illinois Central Railroad. He later owned most of the block where the Forsyth Village Hall and firehouse now stand. He also owned the so called "Bungalow" (corner of Smith and Ruehl) now remodeled into a residence.

His son, Tom, worked on farms around Forsyth and later became a motorman for the Illinois Traction System. He married Pearl Parkhurst and their five children were Edwin, killed in World War II, Mrs. Pauline Peterson of Bloomington, George who died at age 7 or 8, Mrs. Stella Easter of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Elmer, deceased.

To Elmer Luallen and his wife, Mary Ellen McCormach, were born five children. James, an athletic director at Fort Collins, Colorado, Patricia Mullins of Decatur, Gary, an athletic coach at Normal, Tom of Clinton who is at Staleys, and Norene Perry of Normal.

The grandmother, Pearl Luallen, in her later years, the mid 50's, was a housekeeper in the home of Ray Rodgers and Dale Evans, famous western television stars who had a ranch in California. She was their housekeeper for about 9 years.

MARQUIS FAMILY

William Marquis was born in Posey County, Indiana on Nov. 24, 1830. He came to Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois when he was 10 years old. Later he moved to Pike County, then moved to a farm southeast of Maroa, where he remained until 1892, when he retired from farm work and moved to Forsyth where he died Feb. 27, 1908.

He married Miss Chloe M. Covey April 20, 1854. To them were born 13 children as follows:

Mary Adaline - married Fred Creekmur - 6 children - farmed N.E. of Forsyth.

Henery and wife, Mary, moved from Forsyth to Decatur, worked at Dauts Green House and later had a flower business on Pershing Road. They had four children.

Leonard never married. He died when he was middle age.

William-married Ada Weaver, sister of William Weaver and farmed west of Forsyth - 3 children.

Emily (died at age 31)-married Mark Walters. They farmed near and later lived in Warrensburg. 3 children-William, Ernest, and Mable.

Ellen-married William H. Weaver, Hickory Point Road Commissioner and farmer.

Oliver-married Rheta Batchelder, later moved to Decatur, 4 daughters.

James-married Phoebe Clayton, lived at Argenta. One daughter.

Alfred (Dick)-married Carry Peckert lived in Decatur and was with the Illinois Central. One daughter, Albert and his brother, Alfred, were twins.

Prudence-married J.J. Babcock, farmed near Oreana, 5 children.

Elizabeth-married Ira Elliott lived in Forsyth, 4 children; Lily of Miamisburg, Ohio, Harold of Decatur, Alfred who later moved to Kentucky, Bertha who lived in Forsyth-married Frank Crotcher-5 children.

Ralph-married Minnie Heller, lived in Forsyth and was in the maintenance department of I.T.S. 3 daughters-Edna, who married William C. Long, village fire chief and now on village zoning board-One daughter; Bernetta now in Jacksonville, Florida-One daughter; Eileen married Billy Hardy who is now president of village board- 3 daughters and one son.

ED C. DAVIS

Ed C. Davis, who probably spent his early years in Bethany and Dalton City, was first mentioned among the Forsyth grocery-men when he bought the stock of Bartlett Seegrest and Co. in the store building the "Bungaloo" (S.E. corner of Ruehl and Smith) and later disposed of the grocery store at an auction.

The building occupied by the "Economy Store" on Smith street, midway between Fitch and Ruehl, was built by the Shellabarger Elevator Co. in 1906. A large stock was put in and the business was conducted for the company by Ed Davis.

Mr. Davis worked in the Economy Store thru the fire of 1914 which totally destroyed the building. He then worked in the temporary store in the IOOF Hall, and later in the new brick store on the west side of the Hayes property.

He and his wife, Mary Parkhurst lived in the residence on Ruehl street just west of the Methodist Church. This house was bought following the fire in 1914 in which the Parkhurst home was burned also.

He was a man of experience in the grocery business and doubtless his abilities contributed to the success of the various stores where he worked under five or more different managers from 1906 until his death around 1928.

LUCIEN N. LINDSEY

Lucien N. Lindsey, M.D. was born July 31, 1877, near Gasner, Illinois. Dr. Lindsey spent his boyhood on the farm with his father. He finished the country school course and followed it by three years in Northwestern Normal at Bushnell, graduating in the teachers course, after which he taught school for two years in Macon County. He entered the college of Physicians and Surgeons at St. Louis, Missouri, graduating after a four year course in 1905. He located in Forsyth in May of the same year and, at once, entered into a large and lucrative practice.

He united in marriage with Bessie McDonald of Macon County on Sept. 14, 1905.

Dr. Lindsey served in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in Northern France during World War 1. After the war he returned to his medical practice in Forsyth. Dr. Lindsey served the community until his death on April 7, 1955, at the age of 77. Dr. Lindsey is buried in the Point Pleasant Cemetery near Long Creek, IL.

HINKLE FAMILY

William A. Hinkle was born May 29, 1850 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania near Harrisburg. When 18 years of age, he came to Illinois and worked on a large farm near Bement for 2 years. Here he learned to be a blacksmith and got a knowledge of farming and animal husbandry. Mr. Hinkle later worked on a farm near Warrensburg, Illinois.

He married Amanda Ivens on August 16, 1877 and lived on a farm one mile west and one mile north of Forsyth. He raised and sold pedigreed Chester White hogs, horses, and ponies. Lanshans, a popular breed of chickens at that time, were raised and exhibited at agricultural fairs by Mr. Hinkle.

There was a large orchard and garden with fruit trees and berries. In addition to a modern home were a large barn, a corn crib, an implement shed and a fully equipped blacksmith shop where Mr. Hinkle would shoe horses.

To William Hinkle and wife, Amanda, were born four daughters and one son - Myrtle (Mrs. Robert Totten); Ethel (Mrs. Roe Trimmer); Orville who married Ola Edna Gillen; Iva (Mrs. Edwin Hayes); and Ruth (Mrs. John Rowe).

Mr. Hinkle was the inventor of the sliding bottom and telescoping wind-straw stacker with adjustable hood for use on grain separators and clover hullers. He held several patents on this stacker taken out in the early and mid 1890's. Production and sale was under a royalty contract with Russell Wind Stacker Co. of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Hinkle built a 10 room modern home on the South side of Cox street in 1912. This house was one of the nicer homes in Forsyth. It was two stories with a curved porch across the

front and extending along each side. This porch was designed for the placement of porch furniture, such as a glider, at any place on the porch. There was a big fireplace in the dining room and a large basement beneath the house.

Back of the house was a garden, some fruit trees, a grape arbor, and some hives of honey bees. In a small chicken house, Mr. Hinkle continued to raise black Lanshan chickens.

In a Reo car, Mr. Hinkle installed a manually operated turn signal. He drove this car out to his farm, to Decatur, and around the neighborhood during his retirement years.

Mrs. Amanda Hinkle died June 8, 1936 and Mr. Hinkle on July 29, 1941.

GLOSSER FAMILY

John and Mary Glosser lived in the third house south from Moon street on the east side of Smith street. They bought the lot from William & Cynthia Cox in 1912 and built a house later.

John Glosser was born in Pennsylvania, served in the Civil War and took part in the battle of Gettysburg.

Four boys were born of this marriage:

William - Children: Chester, Alma, Delwin, Harold, Margaret

George - Children: Bernice, Russell, Robert, Mary, Wayne

Charles - Children: Chan, Walter, Helen, John, William

Irvin - Children: Gladys, Dorothy, Nadene

Robert and Margie Glosser bought the property from the Glosser Estate. In 1963, the house was purchased by Howard and Faye Walters.

DAVIS FAMILY

John William and Mary Louise Davis lived in Forsyth in the early 1900's and had a family of 6 children. Mr. Davis was a brick mason from Vandalia, Illinois. After coming to Forsyth, he became the local drayman with a horse and spring wagon.

The oldest son, James, married Elvie Miller. They had 3 daughters, Louise, Bessie and Velma. The second son, Harry, had one son, Hershel. Charles had five daughters - Doris, Margie, Maxine, Letha and Charleen.

Erma had three children, Eileen, Norman and John Keith. Minnie married Roy Orr and had one daughter who is now Mrs. Helen Cripe. Della had two children, Estel and Wayne.

HARMON BROTHERS

The Harmon brothers, Grant and J. M., were the leading building contractors in Forsyth dating back to the early 1900's. The Grant Harmon boys, Lawrence, Joseph, James and Henry, helped in many of the undertakings by the Harmons. They worked at carpentry in surrounding towns in the general area. One large construction job was the Wise Road Elevator north of Forsyth.

Grant Harmon built his home north of the IOOF Hall. J. M. Harmon built his home on the south side of Ruehl street. There might have been twelve or more houses in Forsyth built by the Harmons and their employees.

CHARLES BLAZER FAMILY

Charles Blazer and family lived and farmed just east of Forsyth and, upon retirement, moved to a home north of the Methodist Church in Forsyth. Mr. Blazer was originally from

Ohio. He married Jennie Muller, who came from Germany with her family while still quite young.

The oldest daughter was Lois, followed by Bernard who married Lois Rutherford and Donald who married Florence Hoffman.

Dorothy, married to Forest Alexander, had two children (Allen and Carol Ann) and lives near Forsyth. John, married to the former Dorothy Gardiner has four girls (Phyllis, Beverly, Joyce and Bonnie) and lives in Forsyth Estates on the northwest side of the village.

SAMUEL MILLER FAMILY

Samuel Miller retired from a farm two miles north of Forsyth (east side of Rt. 51) and bought a house in Forsyth (first house from Shaffer St.) along east side of Smith street.

Nine children comprised the Samuel Miller family. They were Edward, Charles, Eli, Pearl (Mrs. Guy Doran), Grover (married to Hazel Crawl). Grover and Hazel had one daughter, Mrs. Gladys Perkins and one son, Elwood.

Daughter, Elvie, married James Davis (daughters-Louise, Bessie, and Velma). There were two more Miller sons, Herman and Harry. The youngest daughter in the Miller family, Iva, married Lloyd Frances.

THE PARKHURST FAMILY

Daniel Parkhurst was born June 2, 1847 near Franklin, Indiana. He enlisted in the Union Army on August 2, 1862. Mr. Parkhurst took part in many battles throughout the Civil War, including General Sherman's march to the sea. He later was in the Grand Review in Washington D.C. in April of 1865 after the war.

He farmed at his home after the war. Later in 1872, he came to Maroa, then to Arkansas for two years. He came to Forsyth on August 16, 1881.

Mr. Parkhurst was postmaster from 1893-97, township clerk for 16 years, school director 12 years and agent for the Illinois Traction System in Forsyth for 4 years.

Daniel married Mary Hornback in 1883. They had six children. Effie married Bert Lehman and lived in LaPlaze, Illinois. They had three children - Charlotte, Katherine, and Louis Lee. Daniel and Mary's son, Alvin, died at age 14.

Myrtle married Lewis Brewer and lives in Kansas City, Missouri. They had six children. Pearl married Tom Lualien. They had five children.

Troy married Helen Virginia Nance. They had one son, Carl E., who has four children. Ruth married Elsie Kirby who died in an auto accident. They had three children - Daniel, Robert, and Junior. Ruth later married Gaye Kitner. She now lives in Virginia with her son, Daniel.

THE W. H. FORNWALT FAMILY

William Henry Fornwalt moved from a farm several miles northwest of Forsyth to a home in Forsyth. The house is the second house south of Shaffer street on the west side of Smith street. Mr. Fornwalt and his wife, Mary Isabelle, had six children.

One son, Guy, and his wife, Flo, had ten children - Ernest, Charleena, Phillip, David, Nellie, Lila, Ralph, Donald, Neil and Laura Lee. The other son, Frank, and his wife, Sofia, had five children - Elwood, Enid, Kenneth, Vera and Leon.

Harriet Fornwalt married Ernest Walters (deceased). They had one daughter, Margie. Harriet was later married to William Newmin who is also deceased. Mabel Fornwalt was married to Alfred Elliott, now deceased. They had three children - Betty Bell, Alfred Blaine Jr, and Elizabeth. Mabel later married Herman Billerman. Cora Fornwalt married William Dongofski who is now deceased. The youngest daughter is Ruth Fornwalt.

THE DANIEL GILLEN FAMILY

Daniel Gillen married Ida Dora Lowry. They had a family of seven children and lived on a farm two miles east of Forsyth. They later moved to Forsyth in a house north of the Forsyth Methodist Church.

Charles married Minnie Moser. Ola Edna married Orville Hinkle. Fred married Carrie Hazelrig. Homer married Nina Batt. Nellie married Harold Hockaday. Roy married Helen Yawn. The youngest son, Emery, married Percie Hazelrig.

OLD HOUSES AND BUILDINGS

The house on the northwest corner of Elwood and Moon was originally a barracks for the Irish and German immigrants who built the Illinois Central Railroad. It was built around 1850, was located in the southeast part of Forsyth and later moved to its present location sometime after the completion of the railroad. It is the oldest building in Forsyth.

Gordon Songer came to Macon County in 1860. He engaged in farming until 1864, when he came to Forsyth and erected the first dwelling in the village. This dwelling is now on the southeast corner of Elwood and Moon. It formerly stood on the next lot south.

A second dwelling was built that same year by Dr. Barter. It was later owned and occupied by H. C. Mowry.

There is a difference of opinion as to which of these houses was built first. However, it is agreed that they were built the same year, probably one in the spring and the other in the fall.

The building on the southeast corner of Smith and Ruehl was one time referred to as the "Bungalow". It was built by Weillepp and McMillen for a grocery store. The upper floor served as a lodge hall from January 1882 until 2 years later when a new one was built. The new lodge hall was built one block north on the same street.

Mr. Edward Weillopp sold out to his partner, McMillan. E.B. Mason, for some time, ran the business for Mr. McMillan. After the death of Mr. McMillan, the business was sold to Cooper and Roby. They later sold the business to Jerome Shisler, who in turn, sold the business to Bartlett, Seegrest and Co. After a year or two, the business was sold to Edward Davis, who disposed of the stock at auction.

The store was vacant for a year and then Joseph Cooper put in a stock of goods and after a year or two, sold to George Melhorn. After Mr. Melhorn sold the business to Frank Kohler the business was allowed to run down until there was practically nothing left of it.

The back part of the store, on the first floor, was a billiard hall for some time. Robert Totten had a barber shop in the front part. Later the building was converted into first and second floor apartments. After extensive remodeling, it was converted into a residence.

The Illinois Central station house, from Warrensburg, has been moved to the rear and now adjoins the original building. The old Illinois Central station was used as a gift shop for about a year when the property was owned by Elizabeth and Egon Wolffe. The present owner is Richard McKirahan who uses the station house for his insurance business.

The V. T. Hays residence (N.W. corner of Ruehl and Smith) was built in the 1870's by Petsch. It was used as a store by Petsch, Parkhurst, and others. Wm. H. Walters ran a grocery store after purchasing it in 1927. Mr. Walters and his family occupied part of the building as a residence. Joseph Janes bought the property from the Walters estate in 1973. Mr. Janes and his wife made improvements on the property and engaged in the selling of antiques. It was known as Cracker Barrel Antiques. Mr. Janes died in 1978.

Across the street east, stood the dwelling and store built by Wm. Erwin. The building was later moved to the adjoining lot and is now a dwelling. This house was occupied by Mrs. Orr and, some years later, by C.K. Cooper, McFarlands, Younkers and Davenport.

The house on the southwest corner of Ruehl and Smith was built in 1865. The house was probably built by Frank Weillepp. Later, James Fenner conducted a hotel there for some time. Mary Stewart owned and lived in the house along with Frank and Flora Stewart, who moved in later. The house was bought by Joe Harmon in 1945 and is still owned by his daughter, Mrs. Karl (Christina) Jendry. Mrs. Jendry sold the house to Mr. Byron (Barney) Walters in 1980. He completely remodeled the interior and moved in after a five year stay in Arkansas. Later, the house was sold to

Barney's daughter, Cinda Walker. Barney and his wife, Phyllis returned to Arkansas.

The house located on the southwest corner of Smith and Fitch and the house to the south, are owned by Mrs. Nadene Matthews. They were built in 1875.

The Frank Brown house on Elwood street is located on the east side between Fitch and Ruehl. It was made of concrete, the walls and foundation are 10 inches thick. This house was built in 1902 and remains in excellent condition to this day.

It has been said that the concrete was mixed by hand, carried in buckets, and poured into the forms to make the walls of the house. The ceilings are 9½ feet tall and the baseboards around the rooms inside are also made of concrete.

This house was purchased by Mrs. Laura McKinley in 1912 and many years later, was sold to I. N. Malone who in 1943 sold it to Roy Schroll. Mrs. Opal Schroll Glosser still lives there.

Frank Brown built the house to the north also. This house was occupied by Dr. I. N. Lindsey until he built his new house on Ruehl street. He probably built his house around 1910. The Arthur Benton family lived in and owned the north Brown house from possibly 1912 until 1973.

The building occupied by Economy Store was built by the Shellabarger Elevator Co. in 1906. A large stock was put in and the business was conducted for the company by Ed C. Davis. Some time after, Stadler and Myers took charge and conducted the business until the sale to A. W. Hendricks, who later sold it to E. B. Collins.

The Economy Store building burned down around 1914. Along with the Economy Store, the Harmon Bros. Carpentry Shop and the

Mary Parkhurst home, were also burned in that fire. A temporary store was set up in the IOOF Hall for about a year. The present brick building on the back of the lot (the residence of V. T. Hayes at that time) was built the next year after the fire. A blacksmith shop located on the west end of the Hays property had to be moved north to make room for the brick store.

The business was later sold to C. K. Cooper in 1920. Noah Still, in 1927, ran the store for about five years when it was taken back over by C. K. Cooper. In 1940, Mr. Cooper died and six years later the Cooper heirs sold to Marvin Randall (1946).

In 1949 Mr. Randall sold the business and the store became known as the Gillen-Glosser store. In 1958, the merchandise was sold and the grocery store closed. The building continues to have the post office in the front, some storage space in the back and an apartment above.

The first blacksmith was William Eppler, who sold to David Plank. The next one in order was V. T. Hays and after his death, the place was filled by these in turn: H. L. Strain, Ray Lehew, and Arthur McCord.

Dan Hobbs built the garage building on the east side of Smith street (between Ruehl and Fitch) and ran a garage and blacksmith shop there some years before and during World War I. Shortly after the war, O. C. Odor bought the garage and built a home just to the north and ran a garage, blacksmith, and welding shop. Mr. Odor sold out in 1945 to Harold Wilbur who ran the welding shop and, at one time, made fertilizer spreaders.

A couple of years later, Hershhal Wisnasky bought the dwelling and garage. With Harold DeMent and Tony Mueller, he formed the Tryco Mfg. Co. and made crop sprayers. R.E. West and his son, Robert West, joined the business which grew to such a volume that the Tryco Mfg. Co. moved to larger quarters in Decatur in 1950. Hershhal Wisnasky continued to operate a machine shop on the premises until 1959 when he sold to Pure Oil Co. The building was later taken over by the Z & R Oil Co., whose business was gasoline station installation and repair. It is now owned by Estes Construction Co. and is used for storage of equipment.

The building along the alley (S.W. corner of Ruehl and Elwood) might have been a blacksmith shop many years previous to the time when it was used by Carl Cooper as a feed store and garage. This was around the year 1914. Mr. Cooper was in business only a short time. Herman Cooper, a brother, ran a pool hall and lunch counter in the building, later adding a confectionery, and sometime later a dance hall.

The dance hall started out first as a dance platform. Later, a large removable canvass was used to protect the wooden floor. Still later, the hall was enclosed with a regular roof. This all took place during W.W.1.

Frank Schein took over the pool hall and confectionery and sometime later, Arthur Benton bought the building and ran the dance hall. This was in the early 1930's. The dance hall was later converted into a roller rink. Perry Bullock and later Alma Schenck ran the pool hall and confectionery. William Lowe bought the business from Schenck and ran the business until 1933. A.G. Benton moved his grocery store into the old confectionery. Bob Totten had a barber shop in the front end of the old pool hall.

Some years later, after the death of Mr. Benton, the grocery store went out of business and the pool hall and confectionery were made into apartments. This occurred in 1937.

Fred Sullivan moved part of the dance hall to the east side of Smith St., in the north part of Forsyth. He made it into a dwelling, using the remaining lumber from the hall to complete it.

The apartments, remaining from the dance hall and confectionery, were later occupied by the Jennings Cabinet Shop until 1962. At that time, they were occupied by the Turner Lawn Equipment Co. Dave Hoffman had a cabinet shop there for 3 years prior to 1976. The east side of the building is now used as a flower shop and the west side by Richard's Furniture.

Along the alley and across from the brick store, Clifford McKay built a confectionery and ran it for a short time. Bob Totten had a barber shop in the building for many years. William Lowe opened up a tavern in 1933 and sold out to Walter Lehman and Cecil Cronk. After a year or two they went out of business.

James Harmon ran a confectionery there in 1935, followed by Howard Walters in 1936 and 1937. The business was sold to Virgil Trummel in 1938. The restaurant became a residence with a small woodworking shop prior to 1945, when Elvis King made it into a permanent home adding several rooms, a garage etc. Mrs. King lived there until her death. After her death, the house was sold to the village of Forsyth in 1982. The King residence was torn down in the summer of 1982.

M. E. CHURCH

Religious services were held in the dwellings of the scattered settlers by various circuit riders until the school houses were built. The school house in Forsyth was used by various denominations. The present Baptist Church in Oreana was organized in the old Forsyth school houses. When Oreana was laid out, the society moved it to that place.

In 1866, the Methodist society was organized by H. S. Tryon and services were held in the school house regularly until the erection of the present building in 1868. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Presiding Elder, W. Travis. The first pastor in charge of the new church was Rev. A. Semple. George Shaffer gave the ground for the original M.E. Church. A. J. Gher and A. E. Stewart were carpenters in charge of the erection of the building.

Additions were made to the church as the need arose. A west wing was added in October of 1911. In 1914, the Church Society known as the Emery Church was disbanded and the materials from that building were used to build the east wing. In 1926, came the church basement in which fellowship suppers were served.

In 1956, the old west wing was torn down to make way for the sanctuary. The tower chimes, a memorial to the Harmon Family, were installed in 1960. A church parsonage was built in August of 1966. The lot to the north was acquired providing for future expansion and a parking area.

The old original church was completely demolished and a new addition was built making an extension to the fellowship hall, a new kitchen and four class rooms on the lower level. On the main floor the pastor's office, the church school office, and four more class rooms were added. A balcony addition was added to the sanc-

tuary along with one large class room and some storage space. These additions were completed during 1966 and 1967.

The Methodist Churches joined with the United Brethern and the Forsyth Church is now known as the United Methodist Church.

Pastors for the Forsyth Methodist Church are listed. Many of these pastors will be remembered by the people in this area today. There were 25 before 1907.

Rev. H. F. Powell	1907-08	Rev. E. H. Duhling	1941-44
Rev. C. W. Clark	1909	Rev. Virgil Leonard	1945-49
Rev. Oscar Stewart	1910	Rev. V. S. Chaffee	1950-55
Rev. A. M. Sinclair	1911	Rev. C. D. Smith	1956-57
Rev. E. Blackman	1912	Rev. R. E. Pinder	1958-62
Rev. A. B. Carberg	1913-14	Rev. J. F. Melvin	1962
Rev. Pepping	1915-16	Rev. Jas. McClarey	1962-66
Rev. C. L. Bell	1917-21	Rev. V. W. Gross	1968-69
Rev. H. Montgomery	1922-26	Rev. R. C. Towell	1969-70
Rev. Donald Lemkau	1927-28	Rev. Dale Sanner	1971
Rev. D. H. Abbott	1929	Rev. D. R. Black	1971-78
Rev. John S. Lugg	1930-31	Rev. D. Haworth	1978
Rev. R. W. Tolson	1932		
Rev. Donald H. Gibbs	1933-34		
Rev. Thomas Parkinson	1935-37		
Rev. L. S. Ellison	1938-40		

Miss Maud Benton was, for many years, the only organist or pianist. Whichever was needed, Miss Benton provided the music. She was succeeded by Miss Lois Blazer who served for a number of years.

Two of the earlier Sunday School Superintendents were H. C. Mowry and C. A. Thrift. Mary Irvin was also an early superintendent. Later ones were George Gardner, Chris Trummell, Carlos Kinkaid, Eldon Schroll, H. J. Fombelle, Robert Swartz, Donald Westerman, James Luallen, Steve Reining, Emery Gillen, Donald McCool and Everett Cullison.

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This group of ladies prepare Thanksgiving Dinner at the IOOF Hall to help raise money for expenses for M.E. Church and IOOF members.

Front Row:

Mrs. Chick Glosser
 Mrs. Ferguson
 Mrs. Lizzy Roley
 Mrs. Mable Surface
 Mrs. Lura McKinley
 Cynthia Cox (a relative of Mrs. McCool)
 Blanch McKay Butts
 Iris Adams Clough
 Little Elliott Surface

Second Row:

Ina Butler McKinley
 Miss Maud Benton
 Miss Etta Bixler
 Miss Edna Benton
 Mrs. Grant Harmon
 Elizabeth Marquis Elliott
 Mrs. McCool

Back Row:

Miss Mary Stewart
 Mrs. Barney Mae Harmon
 Mrs. Nettie Benton
 Mrs. Frank Sawyer

The old Benton house on Elwood Street just north of the old Benton store, was torn down in the fall of 1978. The lot is used for additional parking for the Forsyth Methodist Church

A quartet consisting of Maud Benton (pianist), Mrs. Carl Bailey, Mrs. Bessie Lindsay, Jesse Weltmer, Dr. L. N. Lindsay and later, Clifford McCay, sang at funeral services in the Forsyth Church. This was in the 1920's or possibly before.

Others who sang in church choirs were Grace & Charles Parker, May Harmon & Anna Green. Musical programs were held in homes in Forsyth. Some 20 or more local people were organized in a large choir which gave evening programs at the Forsyth Methodist Church. These programs were directed by Russell Larrick.

The Glosser boys, Russell and Robert, sang at the Fairview Church in the early 1920's. Later, Russell, Robert and Wayne Glosser sang in a "barber shop" quartet with others who were fellow workers in the I.T.S. shop in Decatur. Dewey Trimmer, Alva Curren, Chick Schultz, and Cliff McKay were also involved in the singing groups in Forsyth.

An orchestra was lead by Carl Cooper (soprano Sax). Otto Parlier (Eb Sax), Charles Roby (Coronet), Edward Parlier (Clarinet), Frank Crutcher and Arthur Benton Jr. (Drums) were members of the orchestra.

During the early 1930's, the Ladies Aid Society of the Forsyth Methodist Church served threshing dinners in the church basement. As many as 20 to 80 men (one to 4 rings) were served at noon each day during the harvest season at a charge of 60¢ a plate. As much as \$170 or more was cleared a season.

It was a cooperative effort by the village church women and was enjoyed by all who took part. Mrs. Arthur Benton, president of the Ladies Aid, would come down early in the morning and would bake as many as 16 pies.

FORSYTH BAPTIST CHURCH

In July, 1960, Calvary Baptist Church sponsored a Vacation Bible School and, because of interest created, decided to start a Mission in Forsyth. The Odd Fellows Hall was rented and Rev. Tom Branson was called as Mission Pastor. The first Sunday School service was held on August 14, 1960. On July 9, 1961, the Forsyth Baptist Church was constituted with 24 charter members. On July 9, 1961, Rev. Tom Branson was called as church pastor.

On August 5, 1962, Rev. P. R. Keithley was called as pastor. The lower part of the hall was leased entirely for church use only.

In November 1963, the Ralph Marquis property was purchased for building purposes and for a parsonage for the pastor.

In November 1964, Rev. Jerry McDaniel was called as the first full time pastor and in December 1964, his family became the first occupants of the parsonage. On January 3, 1965, Rev. McDaniel held the first service as pastor.

On June 27, 1965, ground breaking services were held at the building site. Rev. K. W. McDaniel, the pastor's father, gave the church the challenge to build. Former Pastor, Rev. Keithley brought a message for the ground breaking services. On January 30, 1966, the church held their first services in the new building. The Service of Dedication was a 2:30p.m. service. It was held on Sunday, March 27, 1966.

In 1971, a new sanctuary was built to the south of the original church. This addition has a foyer and the offices of the pastor and secretary. The sanctuary was dedicated on

July 11, 1971. The original church was converted into an educational wing with two floors including a fellowship hall on the lower level.

Argenta Baptist Chapel was sponsored by the Forsyth Baptist Church and became the Argenta Baptist Church on June 2, 1974. The Ralph Marquis home, formerly used as a parsonage, was sold and moved to Argenta in 1976.

Below is a list of the pastors of the Forsyth Baptist Church:

Rev. Tom Branson	1961-62
Rev. P. R. Keithley	1962-64
Rev. Jerry McDaniel	1965-74
Rev. Raymond Stovall	1975-76
Rev. P. R. Keithley	1976-77
Rev. Jay W. Orr	1977-78
Rev. Larry Bryant	1978 to present

*add name to
list during up to
date*

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church started holding Sunday Church services in the gym of the Forsyth Grade School on October 10, 1977. The church built on a site just west of the southwest corner of Shaffer Street and Route 51 along the Warrensburg black-top road. The new church building was completed in 1981. Its present pastor is Rev. J. Robert Cunningham.

FORSYTH SCHOOL

E. O. Smith gave two lots for a school site. The first school was built in 1864. This was a one-room frame building. It was located in the S.E. corner of Smith & Shaffer streets. For many years it was used by various church groups and served as the township voting place and local court where justice of peace trials were held. Also traveling shows and lectures were held there. From 1932-1966 it was used as headquarters for the Hickory Point Township Road Commissioner for road machine storage. The old building was pushed down and cleared away in 1966. It was believed to be the oldest rural school building still standing in Macon County at that time.

The Forsyth School District was much larger when first laid out than later on and included several sections of land outside of Forsyth. The first teacher was Rufus Crossman (winter term). He was followed by Miss Ellen McCann (spring term).

This original building was used until 1928. It was at that time that a two-room brick structure was built two blocks west and one block south of the original school building. This new school had a basement which contained two rooms for play areas and a furnace room and coal bin. A cafeteria was added and later on, one of the basement rooms was made into a classroom. This made the school into a three-room school. The enrollment varied from 45-65 students during the years of 1928-1948.

The Community Unit District was organized in 1948. Mansel Guyer came to Forsyth School in 1948 as 7th & 8th grade teacher and coach. In 1952, Mr. Guyer was appointed principle. He con-

tinued as principle until his retirement in 1976 (24 years). Mr. Robert Ritter succeeded Mr. Guyer and is now principal of the school.

Two classrooms were built on the north of the new school sometime after Forsyth became part of a consolidated district. Later, a gym and two more classrooms were added and some years later, more additions were made, a cafeteria and a west wing.

Besides the early teachers names, the following should be mentioned: Esther McKinley, Mabel Thrift, W.B. Lemme, Mary V. Ruble, Myrta Conner, Marion Benton, Lois Blazer, Esther Harmon, Verne Nowlin, Forrest Alexander, Jack Earl, Thelma Gidel, Beatrice Henderson, Mescal Lovelace, Gladys Booker, Mae Nolen, Trophy Randall, Ruby Hanover, Milo Deibert, Mansel Guyer, Doris Dotson, Betty Young, Kathryn Nisbet, Audry Newman, Brilla Kearney, Louis Tucker, Jan Edwards, Daisy Gossman, Margaret Holmes, Toni Harris, Ronald Nolte, Betty Jo Browning, Rita Fleckenstein, Sue Davis, Ida McCarthy, Eleanora Rush, Lucille Guyer, William Dixon, Margaret Cuttill, Janice Hallopeter, Mary Kraft, Eileen Anderson, Rena Beaman, Mary Barnett, Flora Albin Casparri, Hope Deister, Rose Marie Carter, Ronald Gossman, Cathy Long, Mary Stone Heideman, Renetta Cochran, Mary Koonce, Paul James, Deborah Odle, Susan Hunzikers, Roxanne Grider, Pamela Alsup, Linda Henkel, Kathy Parrish, Barb Gilman, and Karen Albers.

Ruth Hoyland has taught the longest number of years at Forsyth. She taught a total of 27 years.

For a number of years in the 1920's, Constable George W. Adams, a civil war veteran, lead a parade of children through the streets of Forsyth in celebration of the last day of school.

INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL

Independence School was organized during March and April of 1882 and consisted of sections 12 and 13 and the east halves of sections 11 and 14 which, prior to that time, were in the Forsyth School District. As the name implies, those living in the newly formed district became "independent" of Forsyth. Independence district was east and northeast of the village of Forsyth. The school was built a little over a mile east along the south side of what is now County Highway 20.

The old Independence School building was blown over one night in the late winter of 1914. The pupils were transferred to the kitchen of the IOOF Hall in Forsyth to complete the school term.

Much of the lumber in the old building was salvaged and used in the new school which was ready the following fall. This school building was torn down by W. H. Walters and Carl Schneider and the lumber used in the remodeling of the store front of Walters grocery and a house to the north of the store.

POSTMASTERS

Postmasters of Forsyth and the dates of their appointments are as follows:

Nathan Fitch	July 17, 1865	Samuel Gher	Mar. 25, 1874
George Shaffer	Sept. 3, 1867	Edward Weillepp	Aug. 25, 1879
John J. Reems	Oct. 2, 1867	Victor W. Benton	Feb. 14, 1881
George Swim	Apr. 7, 1868	Joseph C. Hall	July 13, 1885
Joseph Barter	Aug. 24, 1869	Joseph C. Hall	May 5, 1886
Joseph R. Rice	June 14, 1871	Victor W. Benton	Apr. 5, 1889
Simon D. Smith	Aug. 14, 1871	Daniel Parkhurst	Apr. 13, 1893
Edward Weillepp	Jan. 24, 1873	Victor W. Benton	Apr. 16, 1897

Later postmasters were A.G. Benton 1910, A.D. Tillman 1914 followed by Alma Anderson until 1918, who was succeeded by Cora Fornwalt. C. K. Cooper became postmaster in 1920, Noah Still in 1927, C. K. Cooper in 1932, followed by Marvin Randall from 1946-66. During the years of 1944-46, Marjory Cooper served as postmaster. From 1966-90, Franklin McFarland served as postmaster. Then in January of 1990 Judith Shafer and Mary Wessel were appointed Office-in-Charge from Jan. to March and March to August, respectively. On August 8, 1990, Harold Gifford was appointed to serve the Village of Forsyth as postmaster.

A new post office was completed in early 1980 on the former King lot just west of the King residence. More parking was made available at the new location with drive up facilities for mail trucks to deliver and pick up mail. The old Illinois Terminal station, which was used as a dwelling for some years, was torn down to make way for the new post office.

I.O.O.F. HALL

Forsyth Lodge No. 700 was instituted by Dove Lodge of Warrensburg in the hall over the McMillen and Weillepp's grocery store January 4, 1882. Two years later, a lodge hall was erected one block north on the same street. This hall was occupied by the lodge until 1909 when they built the present structure.

In 1883, the Independent Order of Good Templers was instituted. It lived for eighteen years, disbanding in 1901.

The Knights of Pythias was instituted in 1890 and it existed for many years before disbanding.

The Modern Woodmen of America were organized in 1892. This lodge was in existence only a few years.

In this lodge hall, township elections were held. Also held in the lodge were home talent shows by various church and other groups, including the Dramatic Club and a few traveling shows. Thanksgiving Day dinners were served in the lodge by the M.E. Church for many years.

After the Fire House was built, (1956) and the Fellowship Hall at the M.E. Church was completed, the need for the I.O.O.F. Hall was not as great as in former years.

Independence School District finished out the school year in the hall after the school was blown down in a wind storm in the early spring of 1914.

After the old Economy Store burned down in August of 1914, they used the lower floor of the Forsyth Hall as a temporary store for almost a year.

As stated earlier, the Forsyth Baptist Church was started on the lower floor of the hall in 1960 and continued until 1966 when the new Baptist Church was completed.

The Rebecca's are still an active lodge in the Odd Fellows Hall. They are an Auxiliary of the Odd Fellows. The men of the I.O.O.F., while not holding regular meetings, still retain their charter.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL AGENTS

H. H. ROBY

H. H. Roby was a civil war veteran. After the war, he came with his family to Macon County in the fall of 1867. He farmed until his retirement around 1895. He owned the third house south of the old Forsyth Grade School on Smith Street. He died about 1917 or 1918 at the age of 94 years.

His son, Henry W. Roby, owned the house across south from the Benton store on Ruehl Street. This house had been formerly owned by Dr. G. W. Drury. Henry Roby worked in the Benton store for 12 years. Mr. Roby worked the usual 12 hours a day in the grocery store and went to the I. C. station at night to practice telegraphy. He was sent to Culton, IL near Freeport as I.C. agent in 1892.

Henry Roby became the agent at Forsyth around 1893 and continued in that position until his death Apr. 10, 1910. Mrs. Roby lived in the house for over 55 years. There were two children - Mabel and Charles.

K. B. Holland was agent for 1½ years, followed by a Mr. Ratcliffe, who remained for over a year.

A. D. Tillman came to Forsyth as agent around 1913. He was a native of Vernon, IL and had been with the E.J.E.R.R. previously. He served for over 40 years as I.C. agent. He retired in 1954.

I. C. SECTION FOREMAN

The first building of any kind near the site of Forsyth was the section foreman's residence. It was built in 1857 soon after the completion of the railroad and the building of the side track near the Patterson farm which was, at that time, a half mile

south of the village.

This house was moved, some years later, to the N.E. corner of Moon and Elwood and is the oldest house in Forsyth. (At least one room of the dwelling would be called the oldest.)

The section foreman's house on the north side and east end of Moon St. was torn down in the late 50's. There might have been another section house on that same site previously. The old I.C. station house, at the end of Fitch St. between the I.C. tracks, was pushed down in the late 1940's.

Albert Burns was section foreman for the I.C.R.R. probably sometime before 1906. He was transferred to Clinton and Frank Beck took over in 1921 or 1922. Beck served until 1931 when Wm. T. Clary became a foreman. Clary served until his retirement in 1943, except for about a year at Farmersville in 1932. In October of 1943, Joseph C. Duncan became foreman, followed by Albert Vilareal and in 1946 by Edward Leigh who served until the fall of that year when, in November, Lloyd Ishmull took over. Ishmull was transferred to Maroa on October 1, 1953.

The section house was torn down in March of 1954 and the I.C. tracks through Forsyth are now maintained as a part of the Decatur yards.

BUSINESSES

In 1930 Tom P. Byers built a gasoline station on the south part of his property along the east side of Route 51 across from what is now the Hickory Point Mall. The station was later remodeled into a dwelling and, in the summer of 1979, was torn down along with some other homes to make way for the widening of U.S. 51 and other businesses along the highway.

William Penny had a farm implement, sand, gravel and coal business on the lot east of the Interurban Depot. He also rented the Hayes' Blacksmith Shop across the alley where smaller equipment was kept. Mr. Penny was in business for one summer around 1910 or later. He lived in a large two story house 1½ miles west of Forsyth on an 80 acre farm and had a family of six sons and two daughters.

Herman Cooper, in the 1930's, built a home on the corner of Weaver Road and Route 51. He ran a grocery store and gas station. Robert Patterson took over the grocery after the death of Mr. Cooper. Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper lived in the home for a number of years.

Kenneth Manning in 1939, bought and ran the grocery store until 1947 when the building was sold. The business became known as the Jones Grocery, for a short time. Some of the Jones' family lived in the house for a few years.

Frank Traxler bought the property in October of 1956 and was in business for several years. He passed away in 1971.

Mrs. Traxler lived in the home until 1978, when the house was sold to the Century Realty Company.

In May of 1979, the branch office of the real estate business was closed. A grocery store, known as the Handy Pantry, was opened June 23, 1980 in this building. The business was owned by Max Rockhold of Clinton and Jeffrey Nelson of Decatur.

The grocery store was torn down in 1982 to make way for the four lane widening of Route 51.

Leon Rodgers started an oil and feed store in September of 1928 in the south part of Forsyth along Rt. 51. Gasoline and oil, lawn equipment and other items were sold. Later, grinding and mixing feed was done. He made a specialty of stone burr ground corn meal (1938). This process of grinding preserved the nutrients in the finished product which was distributed and sold over Central Illinois.

The building where the feed mill was located was previously a cabinet shop operated by Leon's brother, Ralph Rodgers, (1925) and was converted back into a cabinet shop by John Jennings, Jr in 1962. Later, Turner Lawn Equipment occupied the building. The business located there now is known as Reardon Kitchens.

Carl Bailey, in the early 1920's, went into custom butchering and wholesale meat sales. At one time, 85-90 hogs a week were processed and later beef cattle were added to the business.

Emery Gillen and Emmit Clinton, in 1953, ran this packing business. They sold out to Morris and Gene Altoof in 1955. Everett Hinkle had a meat counter and sold meat retail in the plant.

After the Altoof's went out of business, Greenfield opened a furnace and tin shop. Later, Howard Votaw, in 1958, became engaged in trailer sales.

Phillips Petroleum Pipe Line, which started in business in 1939, consists of two 8" pipe lines to East St. Louis and continues over to Indiana and up to Chicago. Distribution of fuel, oil and gasoline is made to an area within a radius of 75 miles around Forsyth.

Leonard Hesse was the first manager of the Phillips Pipe line. He was followed by Wm. Julian, Norman Ferrell, Harry Toplift and LeMar Hartman.

The manager's house has been moved from the N.W. corner of the Phillips property to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Maroa on the east side of Route 51.

Forsyth Lumber Co. was owned and operated by members of the Huff family of Decatur. The Huff family purchased the lumber, building, supplies, and wire fencing part of the business from the Shellabarger Elevator Co. in 1918. James J. Swartz was the manager until 1920. N. R. Larrick was the manager until 1944, Forrest Alexander until 1953, Louis Sutman in 1954 and Bruce Freer. In 1961, the business was bought by the J. L. Simmons Co. of Decatur.

Bruce Freer was manager for a short time under the new owner and then Willard Sharf took over, followed by William Morrissy in 1963. After the death of Mr. Morrissy in February of 1968, Harold Smith became the new manager and served until the business was terminated in 1973. The Forsyth Lumber Co. shed was torn down in summer of 1982.

Ira Elliott, during the winter months, did custom butchering in a building on his property. His wife ran a meat counter. Mr. & Mrs. Elliott conducted their business during and before the 1920's. He continued in business until the butcher shop burned down in 1942.

The Almeda was probably built in the early 1930's. It was located on the corner of Rt. 51 and County Rd. 20. It was run by a number of tenants as a restaurant, gas station, trailer

camp, etc. In the mid 1950's it was torn down following a fire that almost completely destroyed it.

The United Propane Co., built in the mid 1950's, was burned out by a fire in October of 1962. This company moved to the Current building for a short time thereafter. The Propane Co. later had their offices in Decatur for about a year. They continued in business until being taken over by Empire Gas in February of 1972. Oliver Construction Co. occupied the building after the Propane Co. In 1978, the lower part of the building was taken over by Smith's Pianos.

John Lehman, in 1924, built a gas station on the east side of Rt. 51, north of Shaffer St. This station was later run by Ori Berry followed by Mel Ownes. Henry Harmon and his wife, Doris, were in business there until the corner was taken over by Phillips Petroleum bulk plant in 1939. There was, for a time, a baseball diamond east of where the station was later located. The building was moved a quarter of a mile north to the Mocabee farm where it was used as a machine shed.

J. A. Lake ran a gas station, lunch counter and barbeque on the northeast corner of Ruehl and Rt. 51.. He bought the corner property in 1929. This business had been operated by Peck's Drive Inn for two years prior to that time.

Mr. Lake sold out, some years later, to Elliott Smith. He built a house on the east side of the corner lot and ran a grocery, gas station and restaurant.

Robert Muzzy purchased the property in 1937, made some additions and alterations to the building and went into the tavern business until the township was voted dry. He then sold out in

1944 to John Stone Sr., who ran a grocery store and lived in the house.

John E. Stone Jr. opened a gas station in 1946 and, the next year, built a concrete block garage. This garage was blown down during the wind storm in the fall of 1977. The grocery building had previously been torn down in 1964. John E. Stone Jr. retired in 1973, after 27 years in business.

BEAUTY SHOPS

Probably the first beauty shop was in the home of Mrs. Hazel Lehman on Elwood north of Moon St. around 1930. There was also a shop run by Mrs. Anna Triumph in the Vaughan Oil Co. building, some years later. Mrs. Margaret Green ran a beauty shop in her home, corner of Smith and Moon, from 1957 until retiring in 1968.

Mrs. Marlene Younker had a beauty shop on Ruehl St. and is now operating in her home on Smith St, as does Betty Swinger on Fitch St, and Mrs. Carl Christenson in her home on the corner of Elwood and Cox. Mrs. Nadine White had a shop on Smith and Ruehl some years ago. Mrs. Janet Attebarry had a shop on Elwood St. for about a year before moving from Forsyth.

BARBERS

Daniel Parkhurst had a barber shop in the north room of his home on Elwood St. between Moon and Ruehl in the early 1900's. His barber tools are now in the possession of his grandson, Carl, of Forsyth. Daniel Parkhurst was an army veteran, having served throughout the Civil War.

Robert Totten had a barber shop in the west end of the "Bungalow" for some years. Later, he and Herman Cooper ran a shop for a short time, in a one room building across Ruehl St.

from what is now the brick post office.

A four room addition was added to to this one room, some years later, making it a residence after Mr. Totten moved across Ruehl St. to the Mackay confectionary building. Harry Tanner, who later had a barber shop in Decatur, and Mr. Ryder of Maroa, were in the shop with Mr. Totten at different times. Sometime later, Robert Totten moved away from Forsyth.

Wilbur Primmer's house, in which was a barber shop, was located where Dolsons Signs are now (Weaver Road & Rt. 51). Mr. Primmer was a barber in his home and at his shop in Decatur for over 30 years starting in the 1930's.

William Newman had a barber shop, some years later, in the old pool hall. Later, possibly in 1937, Robert Totten went back to barbering at the same location for a few months.

Harry Reed opened a barber shop in a small utility building to the rear of the Grant Harmon home on Smith St. north of Moon around 1946, for a short time.

Millard Vaughn bought the corner lot at Cox St. and Rt. 51 from the Wm. Weaver heirs. In 1935, he built a two-story house on the east side of the lot. A Phillips gas station was built in 1940 and a smaller one-story home was moved in between the existing house and the station. In 1946, a large garage was built on the center of the lot. Some years later (1951), James Vaughn, a son, built a residence to the south.

For some years various managers ran the gas and garage business along with a restaurant. The Peckham Oil Co., in 1970, took over the property and moved the I.C. Station from Argenta to the lot. The station was used as a restaurant and later as

a grocery store. More gas lanes were added and the garage was torn down to make more room for parking.

The Mule Barn, built by Richard Gamble, opened for business in 1961 and was run by Elton Shackelford. The Lowell Supply Co. bought the building in 1968 and used it for a wholesale grocery warehouse. During the summer of 1978, the business became known as the Forsyth Merchandise Mart and engaged in the sale of general merchandise.

Dave's Custom Cabinets had a cabinet shop on Ruehl St. across from the post office in 1973. The shop remained there for three years before moving to the present location off Rt. 51, west of Forsyth Grade School.

The Current Building was built in 1952 and was, for a short time, an appliance store. It became an apartment for a number of years and, at different times, was occupied by Jennings Cabinet Co. and later, by an ambulance service. The office of United Propane was located there following a fire at their location. The building is now a cabinet shop along with a newer building located east. The firm is S. L. Fixtures and they make cabinets for airplanes, banks, and offices.

The HOU Chemical Co. built a new building along Rt. 51 in 1973. They sold automotive chemicals both wholesale and retail. The building is now occupied by Richard's Furniture.

The Illini Supply, Inc. moved to Forsyth in 1949. They are one of three principal suppliers of school equipment, school cabinets, as well as furniture for offices, auditoriums, classrooms, etc. for colleges and universities and for high schools, grade schools and churches throughout central Illinois.

Dolson Outdoor Advertising Co. came to Forsyth in 1968 and specialize in outdoor advertising in Central Illinois covering 36 counties.

The Carpet Castle came to Forsyth in April of 1975. They sell and install various types of floor coverings.

Koester Buick-Opal, Inc., formerly Stephen Buick, moved to their present location in 1976. They are located east of the Hickory Point Shopping Mall on Rt. 51 and north of I-72. They are Central Illinois' largest authorized full service dealership of Buicks and Opals, with service and parts and a large selection of new and used cars. They occupy an area of over 10 acres.

Autohaus Fortense Inc., a foreign car agency, moved to Forsyth the latter part of 1978. The agency sells Mercedes-Benz, Mazda, and Porsche Audi with full service and parts. They are located on the corner of Ruehl and Rt. 51.

Two fast food restaurants have been built during the late summer of 1979 along Rt. 51 on the east side opposite the Hickory Point Mall entrance---Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers and R.A.X. Roast Beef. Wendy's has since closed down.

Just south of these two restaurants, is a home improvement supermart called "Color Tile". This store has a full line of tile, paint and wallpaper.

In 1981, a very well known fast food chain restaurant, McDonalds, came to the Hickory Point Mall area across Rt. 51.

On Barnett Drive, east of Rt. 51 a Shell Self Service Station, with a line of pick up groceries, was built in 1980.

On June 30, 1930, William and Effie Walters opened a variety store featuring groceries, meats, fruits, vegetables and small amounts of dry goods as well as ice. Later, they added feeds and fresh baked goods and freshly bottled milk direct from the farmers. They also sometimes slaughtered their own meat.

They were located on the same corner for over 37 years and watched many changes come to the business as well as to the town of Forsyth.

They were married for 61 years and raised 5 children as well as feeding many others during the depression. Their children are Howard, Mabel, Victor, Paul and Barney.

They closed the business in early 1968. Later, the building was sold and used as an antique store. William passed away in August of 1971 and Effie in December of 1971.

FORSYTH GARDENS

The 160 acres just west of Forsyth, on the south side of the Warrensburg Road, was a Ewing farm with the Henry Fluss family as tenants. Harvey Grider bought the farm in the 1930's to raise vegetables and other food items for his restaurant in Decatur.

Some years later, Ralph Kammerer took over and, after some 20 years, sold to Staleys to run it as an experimental operation in the production of stock feed.

Ralph Colburn bought the farm in 1960 and ran a hatchery for a few years under the name of Standard Farms Inc. Mr. Colburn is now in the business of professional landscaping and has a nursery and garden store which is run in connection with his store in Decatur.

There was also a grocery store on this property which was discontinued in 1981.

HICKORY POINT SHOPPING MALL

The Village of Forsyth is well located just north of Decatur with county Highway 20 and Phillips Petroleum Pipe Line on the north edge, the old main line of the Illinois Central Railroad to the east, Rt. 51 to the west, and Interstate 72 on the southern edge and served, since 1906 by the Illinois Traction System, now Illinois Terminal.

Many additions have been made to the village to the south including "Forsyth Estates" across Rt. 51 to the west and since 1974, the big addition of 130 acres for the new shopping mall. Three large anchor stores are now in business in the Hickory Point Mall: J. C. Penney (fall of 1978), Carsons (early spring of 1979) followed by Bergners the following summer. Kohls Department store was opened in March of 1983.

Two large financial institutions, The Hickory Point Bank and Bloomington Federal Saving & Loan Ass'n are located in the shopping mall. A new large elevated water storage tank was constructed to provide adequate water pressure for fire protection and for future growth.

The developers of the Mall were Copaken, White, and Blitt of Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

The Hickory Point Shopping Mall in the Village of Forsyth is one of five large shopping malls in Central Illinois and will eventually have over 100 smaller stores in addition to the 3 large anchor stores, employing over 1,000 people and will include parking space for over 2500 cars; There will be 525,000

gross leasable square feet of space with the total cost running into the millions.

Many business sites are available for sale or lease along Rt. 51 in addition to the businesses already located there. The Hickory Point Golf Course is located to the north and west of the mall along Weaver Road.

A six movie theatre, which opened December 1, 1981 in the Hickory Point Mall, is operated by the Kareotes Brothers of Springfield, Illinois. The theatre will seat 1500 to 1800 people.

The Kareotes Brothers Theatres own and operate several theatres in Decatur and are associated with Multi Cinema Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri.

ILLINOIS TRACTION SYSTEM

The Illinois Traction System built a line through the original town on Elwood St. in 1906. Freight and passenger service was constant until 1955, when passenger service was discontinued. The line was abandoned when the I.T.S., now called the Illinois Terminal System, started to use the recently leased I.C. Gulf railroad tracks in October of 1976.

The first I.T.S. agent was Daniel M. Parkhurst. He served from 1906-10. He was followed by Alma Anderson until 1918, when Miss Cora Fornwalt became the agent.

THE FORSYTH GHOST STORY (taken from the account by F.L. Sebthorp)

According to the inventor of this ghost story, a young woman was struck and killed by an Illinois Central train at approximately 2:00 A.M. on January 25, 1871. She lived long enough to say she would return in 20 years to haunt the trainmen on the road.

The Warrensburg Times, Forsyth World and Oreana Herald published stories about the ghost. The Decatur Review also spread the story.

Some of the local boys around Forsyth got a "Doubting Thomas" by the name of Ollie Marquis to visit the scene where the ghost was to appear. When the night came for Marquis to appear, one of the Lehman boys, who had the ability to manipulate his throat with his hand and produce the most blood-curdling sound ever to fall upon human ears, was hiding on the opposite side of the track.

As Marquis waited in the darkness, he suddenly heard the most gruesome sounds imaginable. He then headed for home as fast as his legs would carry him.

ARMISTICE DAY

On Armistice Day (Nov. 11, 1918), Dan Hobbs, the local blacksmith, brought forward a human skeleton which he had obtained, in some manner, and stored away. He borrowed some clothing and dressed it to represent Kaiser Bill. The skeleton was placed in a go-cart type structure with a fitting headstone at the foot.

Dan Hobbs and a number of the townspeople, after driving around Forsyth with the skeleton in the back of a small truck, decided to tour around Decatur. The Forsyth delegation received much attention with their unique exhibit.

They were photographed in front of a local store and received much publicity in spite of all the other Armistice Day activities that were taking place all over Decatur.

HOMECOMING - W. W. 1

A homecoming celebration was planned, possibly in the fall of 1919, to honor those who had served in World War I. The celebration was lead off by a parade of the veterans down Ruehl and Smith streets to the IOOF Hall where a ceremonial service was held. Airplane rides were available with a plane landing and taking off in what might be called "Blaziers Pasture" just east of town across the I.C. tracks. Carnival type booths and shows were set up on Ruehl between Elwood and Smith. There was a dance in the evening . A series of shows were put on in a covered platform at the east end of Ruehl street. It was quite a celebration, the like of which had not been seen in the village of Forsyth before or since.

ROUTE 51

Route 51, formerly called the Bloomington Road, was started in the fall of 1922 and was completed the following year. This route was built by the McMahan Construction Co. and consisted of five brothers; Otto, Hugh, Tom, William, and Pat. They were from Rochester, Indiana. They built the segment from Decatur to Maroa.

Hugh McMahan and his family shared the Laura McKinley house on Elwood Street. In 1923, the construction company used the Interurban (ITS) for hauling sand and gravel. They set up a plant along the street which is called Elwood south of Cox Street.

While the gravel was being poured, Mr. McMahan didn't hear the Interurban and his automobile was struck by an Interurban car. His 5 year old son was killed instantly and Mr. McMahan

was injured. This tragedy occurred May 4, 1923, at the intersection of Cox and Elwood.

Route 51 was later widened by the Wetzel Bros. in 1946 and covered by an asphalt topping. This route is now in the process of being widened further. This route provides access to towns to the north and south of the village of Forsyth.

TENT SHOWS

A tent show came to Forsyth for a two or three night stand at the west end of Fitch street just east of Elwood around 1912. The next year it took place in Coopers pasture on the west side of Elwood. Movies were shown as well as vaudeville acts. The show was run by two Hoyland brothers. In between at intermission, peanuts, popcorn and horoscopes were sold. There was also a beauty contest in which a local beauty queen was selected by popular vote.

The tent and other equipment was transported to other towns in Central Illinois in what might be called a vaudeville circuit. Possibly in the winter season, these shows would be scheduled in small auditoriums in the larger towns.

Another traveling tent show was held in about 1937 on the then vacant corner of Moon and Smith with dog acts and other entertainment.

CROQUET COURT

A croquet court was laid out by N. Russell Larrick on the east side of Washington street in the middle 1930's. Later, a more elaborate court was built on the north side of the west end of Fitch. This court has a surface of sand with concrete curb-

ings. A local roquet tournament was held there in the early 1940's with players participating from Clinton, Cerro Gordo, Decatur, and Weldon. Games were played most of the time in the evenings under lights.

MOVIES

Free movies were shown in Forsyth during the years 1932-1934 during the summer months (one night a week) and were attended not only by the people of Forsyth but many came from quite a distance bringing their own chairs and blankets to sit on. The Epworth League of the Methodist Church sold popcorn at the movies to get money to go to the State Epworth Institute at New Salem.

During 1932, movies were provided by a company from Wabash, Indiana. Later, in 1933-34, William Lowe took over the movies with the help of Bob Rose and others until he moved away from Forsyth. The movie screen was set up between the King residence and the old Interurban Station on Ruehl street. The street was roped off to make room for the large crowds. The local merchants sponsored these early movies. Someone from Decatur operated the movie camer during the late 1930's.

Movies were again shown in the 1940's and into the early 1950's at the Forsyth Grade School under the sponsorship of the P.T.A., selling popcorn and soft drinks.

Later, television became a popular pastime and an increasing number of homes had sets installed. No doubt the programs and old movies on television became more interesting and convenient. In time, no more movies were held in Forsyth because of declining attendance.

BASEBALL DIAMOND LOCATIONS

There was a baseball diamond on the east part of what was Coopers Addition on Elwood street across from the new firehouse. Around 1920 and later, the area was developed by Oldweiler and Larrick into houses and lots.

Later another diamond was made in Camps Addition after the oat crop was harvested. It was located north of Shafter street between the Terminal and the Illinois Central tracks. The next year, the diamond was moved to the south part of the John Lehman farm and continued in use for a few years. This location is part of the Phillips Petroleum Company property.

Some time later, another diamond was put on the northwest part of the Dave Stewart property west of Elwood and south of Cox street. The baseball teams were sponsored by local businesses and became known as the Forsyth Merchants who played teams from neighboring towns.

James Harmon was the first manager of the Forsyth Merchants ball team followed by Frank Farnwalt and Ray Doran.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FIRE DISTRICT

When village constables are remembered, George W. Adams comes to mind. Mr. Adams served in the early 1920's followed by Alfred "Mike" Marques some years later. Others coming along in order, were George LaMont, Harry Bienfor and Carl Gregory. During the early 1940's, William Fox served as village constable.

Lloyd Turner was appointed village marshall and served for a time during 1968 and 1969. Now the village of Forsyth has three sheriff's deputies on duty at all times.

HICKORY POINT FIRE DISTRICT

The Hickory Point Fire District was organized in 1954. Later, a fire chief was appointed and a list of volunteer firemen made up. The first fire truck was delivered in 1955. Another truck was received in 1962 and a third truck in 1964. The firehouse was built in 1956 and an addition made in 1961.

A water truck was purchased in 1958, paid for with money raised by the volunteer firemen. The truck was disposed of later to the purchase of two newer and bigger water trucks in 1962 and 1964.

Water was obtained from Decatur hydrants in the Mound area and carried in the truck tanks before the village water system was installed in 1966.

The fire district trustees were Hoyt Coverstone, Ed Drobish Sr. and A. D. Tillman who served until his death January 11, 1979. Wm. C. Long was the first fire chief and served for a period of 17 years.

Township elections have been held in the south room of the firehouse after it was constructed.

INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FORSYTH

The Village of Forsyth was incorporated in 1957 and its charter granted in 1958. The first meeting was held in the fire-house with later meetings in the Methodist Church. The village hall was built in 1968.

James K. Flint was the first president of the town board. The first board consisted of Otto Lienhart, Robert Gillen, Howard Walters, Myrta Connor, Norman McKinney, Carl Schneider, with Barbara Current as clerk and Wayne Armstrong as attorney. Mr. Flint served 1½ years when Howard Walters was appointed to serve out Flint's term. Mr. Walters served out the remainder of Flint's term and was elected to serve 2 four year terms. Billy Hardy succeeded Mr. Walters in the office of president.

The village board has the legal authority of maintaining the streets, sidewalks, alleys, and providing and maintaining the water system. The water system was put into use in 1966. They also maintain the drainage system for the village. New additions have been made on the city hall building for the storage of a tractor and two trucks used by the village.

A zoning board has authority under the village government and had as its first members, Marvin Randall, Wm. C. Long, and Dr. Robert Atz. The first building inspector was J. J. Cooley. He was followed by Victor Walters, Byron Walters, and Lawrence Lechleiter.

When Victor Walters was building inspector, he was given the task of assigning the first house numbers for the village residents.

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INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FORSYTH

The Village of Forsyth was incorporated in 1957 and its charter granted in 1958. The first meeting was held in the fire-house with later meetings in the Methodist Church. The village hall was built in 1968.

James K. Flint was the first president of the town board. The first board consisted of Otto Lienhart, Robert Gillen, Howard Walters, Myrta Connor, Norman McKinney, Carl Schneider, with Barbara Current as clerk and Wayne Armstrong as attorney. Mr. Flint served 1½ years when Howard Walters was appointed to serve out Flint's term. Mr. Walters served out the remainder of Flint's term and was elected to serve 2 four year terms. Billy Hardy succeeded Mr. Walters in the office of president.

The village board has the legal authority of maintaining the streets, sidewalks, alleys, and providing and maintaining the water system. The water system was put into use in 1966. They also maintain the drainage system for the village. New additions have been made on the city hall building for the storage of a tractor and two trucks used by the village.

A zoning board has authority under the village government and had as its first members, Marvin Randall, Wm. C. Long, and Dr. Robert Atz. The first building inspector was J. J. Cooley. He was followed by Victor Walters, Byron Walters, and Lawrence Lechleiter.

When Victor Walters was building inspector, he was given the task of assigning the first house numbers for the village residents.

EARLY HICKORY POINT

BLACK BART---CHARLES E. BOLES

Black Bart has been the hero in western stories, the subject of magazine and news articles, and has been shown on television and in several western movies. He acted alone in his hold-up operations and is said to have held up as many as 28 stages. He took only the express box and mail bags but never robbed a passenger, nor injured a driver. He protected himself by standing in front of the lead horse.

He was disguised in a long linen duster and pulled a mask over his head made from a flour sack. He operated for about 9 years in Northern California between 1875 and 1883. He lived in San Francisco but was careful not to form any close associations, so there were no clues to follow.

He was finally exposed and sought, at the scene of one of the hold-ups. He was shot by a young boy who just happened to come by and was hunting in the area. Black Bart fled the scene hurriedly leaving behind several of his personal belongings. Most important of these belongings, was a red bandana handkerchief with the laundry mark FXo7.

A Wells Fargo detective, Harry Morse, visited 97 laundries in San Francisco before he found who the laundry mark belonged to. In searching Black Bart's room in Webb House on Second Street, a small pocket Testament was found. On a fly leaf these words were written, Charles Boles, Decatur, Illinois-1865- 116th Ill. Infantry.

Black Bart, or rather Charles E. Boles, had enlisted in the 116th Regiment in 1862, served throughout the Civil War rising to the rank of sergeant. He was mustered out with his regiment

in 1865 after having been commissioned a second Lieutenant. He came home, married, and reared a family. He lived near Decatur and later west of Forsyth.

Black Bart formerly lived in a house one mile west of Forsyth and a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north (east side of road-Section 10). This house was torn down around 1900 and some of the lumber used in buildings now on the Glenn Merriman farm. Later, Black Bart lived in a house two miles west of Forsyth. This house was also torn down long ago.

The third home was four miles west and two miles south of Forsyth. This last named house, near the old Disbrow School (S.W. corner-Section 18), has been donated to the Decatur Historical Society by Lewis Disbrow where it will eventually stand as a memorial to the infamous highwayman, Black Bart.

Charles E. Boles was apprehended and tried and was sentenced to 6 years in San Quentin in 1883. He was freed from prison in January of 1888, after serving a little over 4 years with time off for good behavior.

His family moved to the west around 1882. His wife must have later lived in Hannibal, Missouri as her name appeared in the city directory as the "widow" of Charles E. Boles as late as 1892. No one knows for certain what eventually happened to Black Bart.

CHIEF YELLOW HIMMER

Chief Yellow Himmer (age 28), said to have had an Indian father and Hawaiian mother, came to Forsyth during the summer of 1930. He lived in a two room trailer camped in the the north-west part of Forsyth.

Yellow Himmer gave lectures on Indian History and Customs. He also sang, danced, played and gave lessons on the guitar and ukelale. His son, Thomas Lloyd (age 6) travelled with him. Their journey took them through various locations in 36 states.

Thomas Lloyd's mother was of the white race. When he was two months old, she went to the "Happy Hunting Ground". Her death caused Yellow Himmer to lose an estate of money, oil wells, and a beautiful eleven room home in Miami, Oklahoma. According to the white man's law, an Indian could not possess property in his own right. Chief Yellow Himmer had only to marry someone of another race to regain his inheritance. Thus, began his journey across the United States in search of a wife.

One day, in the fall of 1930, Chief Yellow Himmer and his small son and their Indian dog, Yellow Cloud, left Forsyth to continue their quest. They never returned.

STAGE COACH STOP

The house on N $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 25 (Hickory Point Twp.) - now and for many years, a farm house - was a stage coach stop back before the roads were laid out. As a result, a lane of over a quarter mile was necessary to get out from the house to the Greenswitch Road to the east. The house is now just south of I-72.

The old stage route was over high ground from north of Decatur to the northeast, possibly to Newberg and on to Monticello

and beyond. This house was built perhaps sometime after early settlers arrived in the early 30's and before the railroads were built in the 1850's, probably around 1840 or before. A spring close by was, no doubt, the reason for building the house on that particular spot.

THE FAIRVIEW CHURCH

The Fairview Church was organized by Elder M. S. Newcomer, on March 14, 1871. Its chapel was located in the southwest corner (Section 9). One of the original members was Daniel S. Weigel, who came to Hickory Point Twp. at the age of 2 years. He was one of 12 children. His father, Solomon Weigel, and mother, Caroline Winkle, settled on 80 acres (Section 16) in June of 1849, the furthest settlement out on the prairie at that time between Decatur and Salt Creek.

Daniel Weigel attended the common schools in Hickory Point and went one term to State Normal School. He later learned the carpenters trade, became a farmer and, a little later, a preacher in the Church of God. He became a pastor in the Fairview Church and also served as Sunday School Superintendant.

The Fairview Chapel stood vacant for some years prior to around 1928, when it was moved to a short distance north of Bearsdale (east side of the road) and became the Anit-Horse Thieves Association and Hall. The building has since been torn down and a residence built on the site.

OLD FAMILIES FROM FORSYTH BOOK 1800's

JOHN ANDERSON - Born near Guttenberg, Sweden, July 22, 1850. Came to America in 1875. Worked in the rolling mills in Decatur for six years, then removed to Forsyth and worked for the Illinois Central Railroad company for seven years.

He married Miss Ruby Rogers July 31, 1881 and had issue: Minnie, wife of Henry Ray, of Decatur; Ina, wife of Lee Hays, of Forsyth; Earl and Alma.

WILLIAM BAINTER - Born in Coshocton county, Ohio, Sept. 14, 1826. His father moved to Lafayette, IN., when William was twelve years old, making the trip with ox teams. He stayed with his parents until he was twenty-one years old and then came to Decatur, making the trip on horseback. One year later he returned to his old home in Indiana and after a year's stay there, came again to Decatur.

He was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Braswell Sept. 28, 1851, in Decatur. The second year after his marriage, he was engaged in the business of stock drover, making many trips to St. Louis. He followed farming on the Robert Smith farm southwest of Decatur for the next twenty years. In 1869 he and his family drove through to Coffey County, Kansas, where they lived for six years, then returned to Macon County and lived east of Decatur for five years, then moved to Forsyth, where Mrs. Bainter died, April 20, 1891. Mr. Bainter survived his wife for a number of years, passing away July 28, 1905.

Mr. Bainter had nine children: Lucy, Laura & Henry died in infancy; John & Alfred died after reaching manhood; Frank, Effie, Mary, and Sarah.

ANDREW J. BIXLER - Born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, May 31, 1838. Came to Illinois when a young man. He enlisted in Co. H, 63rd Volunteer Infantry, at Decatur, IL, in 1864 and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Louisville, KY, July 13, 1865. He was married to Miss Lavinia Lehman Dec. 10, 1868, and went to housekeeping on a farm east of Forsyth. To them were born, Daisy, Harry, Annie, Clara, Etta, Goldie and John. Mr. Bixler died Aug. 25, 1885.

PATRICK BURNS - Born Nov. 11, 1834, in Parish Ardarah, County Donegal, Ireland. Came to America in 1864 and worked in the coal mines and on railroads in Pennsylvania until 1866, when he came to Decatur, IL and worked fourteen years for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. In 1877, he moved to Forsyth and lived there until 1908, when he moved to Decatur, where he died in 1910.

He married Grace Boyle in Ireland, Feb. 10, 1859. They had three children: Patrick, Mary and John. These children died after reaching maturity. Mrs. Burns died in Forsyth Aug. 2, 1901.

G. E. BUTLER - Born near Fredonia, KY, Oct. 11, 1842. Reared on a farm and educated in the public schools and at Mt. Zion Academy, Mt. Zion, IL. He married Miss Emma Sawyer Nov. 29, 1866. They resided in Kentucky until 1885, when they came to Illinois to a farm near Forsyth. In 1908 they moved to Forsyth.

They had five children: Mary Alice, born 1870, died 1872; Ella, born 1873, married Frank Majors; Flora, born 1875, married to Frank W. Stewart; Ina born 1880, married Elwood McKinley; Carl, born 1884, married to Miss Julia Simpson.

JOHN CHRISTY - Born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1852. Moved to Iowa when eight years old. Came to Macon County in 1872.

Worked as a farm hand until his marriage in 1883 to Miss Frances Prett. From that time, he farmed near Decatur until 1904, when he retired from active life and moved to Forsyth.

JOSEPH COOPER - Born in Hardin County, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1845, and was reared on a farm. He enlisted in Co. B, 176th Ohio Vol. Inf. in 1864, and served until the close of the war. He was married to Miss Mary Brown in 1865 and two years later came to Macon County, IL. He worked for C. P. Thatcher as a farm hand for a number of years. He then rented a farm and conducted farming and stock raising for several years until he retired.

His children were: Nettie, Frank, James, Herman, Nellie, Carl, Blanche and Hubert.

WILLIAM M. COX - Born in Winchester, Scott County, IL, Jan. 6, 1850. His father came to Macon County five years later and purchased, from the Illinois Central Railroad Co., the farm known as the Rainey farm, southeast of the village .

He married Cynthia Brett, Sept. 16, 1874. For several years they lived on their farm south of Forsyth, where their two daughters wer born, Stella and Maude.

In the spring of 1880, they sold their farm and moved to Kansas, where they lived for twelve years. They returned to Illinois in 1892 and, for some years, farmed on the A. J. Hanks farm, north of Forsyth. In 1907 they moved to Forsyth.

DR. G. W. DRURY - Son of George and Penelope (Evans) Drury, who were early settlers of Morgan County, where the doctor was born in 1853. He was reared on a farm in Morgan and Macon Counties, attending school at Centre Ridge and Forsyth, finishing the common school course. Later he began the study of medicine in the Missouri Medical College, graduating in 1882. He began practice in Forsyth

immediately after graduating. He moved to Oreana in 1884, then to Decatur in 1887, where he served as County Physician one year. In 1890, he moved to Forsyth, where he remained until 1899, when he moved to Decatur and remained until his death in 1908.

He married his first wife, Ruth Lehman in 1879. She died in Oreana in 1885. He married Daisy Bixler in 1886. She died in 1908.

HOWARD ERWIN - Born in Muskingum County, Ohio, January 5, 1857. Came to Illinois with his brother, Thompson, in 1870 and in 1875, came to Forsyth. In 1880 he married Jesse Tilton. They had four children: Edith, Leslie, Edgar and Charles. In 1900 he moved to Decatur, where he was employed by John Washburn, the grocer, until 1910, when he moved to a farm in Christian County, IL.

THOMPSON ERWIN - Born in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1855. Came to Cumberland County, Illinois in 1870, and four years later, moved to Forsyth. In 1881, he married Ada Babcock. They had three children: Olive, Mary and Hobart.

PLEASANT H. HAWKINS - Born in Bartholomew County, Indiana, in 1839. Educated in the public schools and reared on a farm. In 1860 he married Samantha Howard and to them were born the following children: Sarah, Melvin, Didama, John, Jacob, Pleasant, Eva, Elba, Elli, and Ethel. He moved with his family to Macon County in 1889 and followed farming until 1895, when he moved to Fayette County, Illinois. In 1900 he bought a home in Forsyth.

Mr. Hawkins enlisted in Co. F, 40th Ill. Vol. Inf. in 1861. He was engaged in the battle of Shiloh, where he was struck three times by spent balls. He took part in the operations around

Vicksburg and started with Sherman through Georgia, but his term of enlistment expiring, he was returned to Springfield, IL and discharged from the service.

SAMUEL C. HORNBECK - Born in Flemingsburg, Bath County, KY, in 1818. Came to Illinois in 1832. Married Miss Margaret Johnson in Kentucky early in the same year.

They located on a farm northwest of Decatur. They had nine children, many of whom were residents of Forsyth.

JAMES L. KENTON - Born near Rushville, IN, Jan. 27, 1837. At twelve years of age he moved, with his parents, to Rushville, where he attended the public schools. He learned the trade of brick mason and worked as a journeyman until 1862, when he enlisted in the 22nd Indiana Battery under Capt. B. F. Denning.

Mr. Kenton was discharged on account of disability from Madison, IN, with the rank of quarter master sergeant.

In 1866, he married Ellen Alexander of Madison, IN. In 1877, he moved to Larned, KS, where he worked at his trade and later conducted a grocery store in Iuka, KS. In 1893, he moved to Madison, IL then to Decatur in 1894. In 1902 he purchased the property in Forsyth and moved into it. In 1905 he moved to Decatur, where he lived until 1907, when he moved back to Forsyth. In 1909, he moved to Decatur, where he lived until his death in 1910, followed close by the death of his widow. They had the following children: William, Omar, James R. and Ivy.

J. R. KENTON, M.D. - Born in Rushville, IN, July 5, 1870. Moved with his parents to Larned, KS in 1877. He attended the public schools and also Fcole's Private School. In 1893, he went to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he learned the trade of coach painter

In 1896, he entered the Indianapolis Medical College, where he attended lectures for two years. He took his last year's medical study in Beaumont Hospital Medical College in St. Louis, MO, where he graduated in 1899. He followed his profession in Decatur for one year, then opened an office in Forsyth. In 1903, he moved to Raymond, IL.

He married Miss Mollie Raymond of Indianapolis, IN, in 1902. To them were born two children: Harold and Bruce.

ERIC KLITZ - Born in Slisvig, Hvidding County, Denmark, May 1, 1850. Came to America in 1871 and to Livingston County, IL, where he worked on a farm for two years. He then came to Decatur and, for a time, worked in a rolling mill. Later he worked in various counties as a farm laborer. In 1906, he moved to Forsyth, where he engaged in the poultry business.

MRS. CHRISTINA MULLER KAUFFMAN - Born in Wurtemberg, Jettenbach, Germany, Feb. 16, 1841. Came to America in 1856. In 1858, she married John Kauffman, who in 1861, enlisted in Co. H, 7th New Jersey Vol. Inf. He was wounded in the battle of Williamsburg and died on May 7, 1862, leaving his widow and two children, Rose and John. In 1879, Mrs. Kauffman moved to Forsyth.

ASA MALOTT - Born in Hamilton County, IN, May 3, 1838. Was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools. Came to Douglas County, IL in 1857 and worked on a farm for two years. He returned to Indiana and married Miss M. J. Chance on Oct. 18, 1873.

Some years later, they moved to Montgomery County, KS and farmed four years, then returned to Indiana and farmed in Scott County until 1897. He then came to Macon County and resided on

a farm near Forsyth. After four years, he moved to Forsyth. He had five children: Mary E., John Ellsworth, William E., Jessie T. and Ivy M.

JOSEPH S. MILLER - Born in Greenbrier County, VA, March 8, 1816. He moved to Jackson County, OH in 1822. In early life, he followed the business of stock dealer, frequently driving cattle to New York City. In 1871, he came to Forsyth, where he built a house across from the M.E. Church and lived there until 1883, when he sold out and moved to Dakota. He was the first settler in Miller Township, named for him. He died in Britton, South Dakota on Feb. 10, 1893. His wife died Feb. 5, 1906.

He was married to Mary Stains Dec. 15, 1853. They had seven children: Eleanor, Edgar, Anna, Mary, Joseph, Dutton and Alice.

J. MCCORD - Born in Bethany, IL, Sept. 26, 1872. He was educated in the public schools and learned the trade of blacksmith in his father's shop in Bethany. He moved to Forsyth in 1909. He married Miss Cora Jackson of Bethany on May 30, 1895. They had three children: Viola, Florence and Ethel.

MRS. SARAH MCKAY - Daughter of Abram and Margaret Hornback, born Feb. 15, 1860, on a farm northwest of Decatur. She married A. Doran in 1878 and went to housekeeping on a farm near Boiling Springs Church. They had a family of three sons: Guy, Ray and Don.

Mr. Doran died April 18, 1886. On July 29, 1888, Mrs. Doran married R. F. McKay. To them were born Mabel, Clifton and Blanche. Mr. McKay died April 1, 1907 in Forsyth.

ELIZA MCMILLAN - Born in Belmont County, OH, Sept. 4, 1851. He was educated in the common schools and Bellefontaine High School. His time between school years and for some years after graduation was spent in various mercantile positions. In 1871, he came to Illinois and, for a number of years, he farmed with his brother, James C.

He married Louisa J. Dillinger of Macon County and moved to the Joseph Arthur farm west of Forsyth. Later he moved to Warrensburg, where he was engaged in business for four years, then moved to Forsyth and entered his brother's store where he was employed for twelve years. He then moved to Decatur, where his wife died in 1894. They had the following children: Laura, Etta, Lola, Vann, and Amy.

JAMES C. MCMILLAN - Born in Belmont County, OH in 1848. He was educated in the common schools and in Hopedale College, Harrison County, OH. He later graduated from Duffs Business College in Pittsburg, PA. In 1868, he moved to Illinois and followed the vocation of teacher for several years, teaching at Pleasant View, Malone, Hickory Point and Forsyth.

In 1871, he married Matilda Bishop. He commenced farming on the John Ivans' farm northwest of Forsyth, later moving to the Hays farm north of Decatur, where he lived for two years. He then moved to Forsyth and engaged in the grocery business with Edward Weilepp until ill health compelled his retirement. He died in 1892. He had four children: John M., Louis C., Clara and James.

DAVID FLANK - Born in Lancaster County, PA, Sept. 24, 1822. He learned the trade of blacksmith and followed it as journeyman until his removal to Decatur in 1856, where he was engaged in business for eleven years. He then moved to Forsyth in 1868.

Mr. Plank was a very skillful workman and a very pleasant gentleman as well. He succeeded from the start and enjoyed the respect, as well as patronage, of a large circle of friends. He married Mary A. Knisley of Lancaster County, PA, in 1844. They had nine children. His wife died in 1889 and he in 1905.

HENRY REESER - Born in York County, PA, May 6, 1843. He spent the usual time in the country schools. When of age, he learned the carpenter trade and worked as journeyman for a number of years. He married Martha Yoder on Dec. 10, 1866. Shortly after, he moved to the Gulick farm two miles north of Decatur, IL. He farmed there for three years. He then moved back to York County, PA and lived there for twelve years, when he came back to Illinois to the Samuel Weaver farm. He lived and farmed there until 1902 when he retired.

They had the following children: Ada, William, Anna, Mary, James, Elizabeth, Henry Jr., Louise and Millie.

FREDERICK RISER - Came to Forsyth with his wife and daughter, Elizabeth, in 1867. He engaged in farming until 1890, when he retired. He died Feb. 17, 1906 and his widow, some time after, moved to Decatur, where she died Jan. 15, 1910.

PETER RUSSELL ROGERS - Born in Kentucky in 1831. He came to Pike County, IL when quite young. In 1870, he came to Forsyth and lived in the H. H. Roby residence. He was a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. Rogers died in Forsyth in 1881. Mr. Rogers died in Louisiana, MO in 1883. They had the following children: Anna, Laura, Lena, Blanche, Ruby, Sarah, William and Carl.

JOHN J. WARD - Born near Romney, Hampshire County, VA, July 1, 1839. He came with his parents to Illinois in 1845. He was educated in the public schools of Decatur. He enlisted in Co. A, 41st Ill. Vol. Inf., Aug. 6, 1861 and served until Aug. 8, 1864. He returned to Decatur and entered the wool carding business with a brother. His next business enterprise was bridge building in Morgan County. In the spring of 1867, he came to Forsyth and entered the employ of Chas. Ruehl in the grain business, where he remained until 1876, when he resigned and entered the contracting and building business. He followed this business until 1879, when he removed to Cwaneco, IL.

He married Henrietta V. Songer, April 21, 1869. They had eight children: Edith, Vida, Marcellus, Myron, Amy, Wilbur, Alma and Charles.

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Forsyth Estates
by Dorothy E. Blazer

Your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams. Acts 2:17

In the fall of 1967, Robert and Martha Hobbs came to the vicinity of Forsyth, Illinois, to investigate the possibility of a housing project. From an interview with Roy Phillips of Decatur, they were able to get an option on sixty acres of land just west of State Route 51 and south of the Oreana--Warrensburg road. At that time the land was farmed by Donald McCool assisted by his father, Bert McCool. They were our farmer neighbors to the north. Robert and Martha proceeded to lay the plot out in lots with frontage on the Oreana-Warrensburg road, now known as West Forsyth Road, and they named the new area Forsyth Estates. This became legal as of January, 1968.

At this time the village of Forsyth had its own water system and access to natural gas, so these facilities were put in at Forsyth Estates along with fire hydrants and street lights. All of the electric lines and telephone cables were put underground--a move which will probably make the well-known telephone poles antiques in years to come.

In the early spring of 1968, Robert and Martha Hobbs hired Gary Smalley, a contractor from Oreana, to build the first home in Forsyth Estates. It was a six room house with full basement and double garage. The address was 305 West Forsyth Road. They took up residence in this approximately \$25,000 home in June 1968. Martha Hobbs is a mathematics teacher at Warrensburg High School and Robert, a former teacher, is now a real estate dealer.

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The Hobb's were now ready to sell the lots and build more homes. They planned to move from one to another as soon as each sold. The price of the lots was \$3500.

Soon the ground was broken for a bi-level home with Byron (Barney) Walters as the builder. He was building to sell too, and he hired helpers from here and there along with some help from Gary Smalley.

Next came John and Dorothy Blazer from Forsyth in July, 1968. John a pipefitter, working out of Union Local 65, and Dorothy, a clerk at Forsyth Post Office for the past seven years. Gary Smalley was their contractor, and they built a ranch-type home with seven rooms, two baths, double garage, and patio-approximately \$24,500 with lot. That address was 315 West Forsyth Road. The lumber for their home was purchased at the Forsyth Lumber Co. which was managed by Harold Smith and whose secretary is Mrs. Beulah Gill. The first spade of dirt was turned on July 23, 1968, and on October 26, 1968, John and Dorothy and daughter Bonnie took residence in the first home they could call their own. Bonnie was doing her student teaching at Wilmington, Illinois, at the time.

By Thanksgiving of that same year, Barney Walters had completed and sold the bi-level to Lucille Roney and Judy Crews of Decatur, Illinois. Lucille had lost her husband with cancer in recent years and Judy, her daughter, had lost her husband in an accidental drowning in Lake Decatur. Judy was left with little Todd Eric who was just a year old November 26, 1968. Judy and Todd made their home in the upstairs and Lucille, on the lower level. Judy was a nurse at Decatur Memorial Hospital, and Lucille had charge of Viking Shop in Franklin Street Mall, Decatur.

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The lot to the east of Hobb's was then sold and the contractor, Olin Copple, built a pre-cut house on it. He hired two men from Arthur (Mennonites) to build it. It took quite a while to sell, but in the spring of 1969, Harold and Lola Neeley, formerly of Alton, Illinois, purchased it for their home. They had two daughters in grade school, Debbie and Julie. Harold was in heating and air-conditioning and was self-employed.

In the meantime more building was going on and Barney Walters had another one finished and ready to sell and James and Lena Slunder of Decatur bought it and moved in in the spring of 1969. They had one son, Jeffrey, in grade school. Jim was employed by Caterpillar and Lena worked at A & P.

By now the Hobbs's had another house ready farther west in the 400 block so they sold the one at 305 to Kenneth and Louise Graves of Salem, Illinois. This was the first move in our new community but Hobbs just moved on down the street and the Graves took possession in fall of 1969. They had one daughter, Kay, in first grade. Kenneth was principal of Maroa Grade School and Louise attended I. S. U. at Normal, Illinois, and commuted back and forth each day.

We had our first community "get-together" at Judy Crews's at Christmas time 1969. Our neighbor farmers to the north, Donald and Bert McCools, were special guests.

Somewhere along about now we made the street, Avalon Boulevard, going north and south. Barney continued to build more houses and ~~the last one~~ now had one ready which Michael and Betty Jo Johnston bought at 405 west Forsyth Road. They had two sons, Michael, in grade school and Brent, a preschooler. Mike was a farmer of several hundred acres in the area around here. They moved in in the spring of 1970. (I might say here that one day Brent and his friend with their cowboy boots and pistols decided to take a walk down W. Forsyth Road toward Route 51. They were rescued by John Blazer after a frantic search by Mother.)

Jack and Betty Atchison of Forsyth were the next proud home owners. They purchased the last one Hobbs had built at 425 West Forsyth Road. Jack was an employee of Firestone in Decatur. They had two daughters, Linda and Cinda, and grandson Christopher. Cinda attended Maroa High School. They took possession in the spring of 1970.

We now have a home on the east side of Avalon Blvd. at 345 West Forsyth Road, which Barney Walters built so he and Phyllis moved into that in April 1970. Barney, besides being a builder, was employed by Herald and Review. They had four children. Mark just graduated from Maroa High School, Terry and Cinda in high School, and Craig in grade school.

Things are really humming and Barney built another bi-level at 435 West Forsyth Road, which Kenneth and Marie Barlow of Forsyth, purchased and took possession of in the summer of 1970. Kenneth is employed by Caterpillar of Decatur and Marie works part time at J. C. Penney Co., Decatur. They had two children in grade school, Susie and Kenneth, Jr.

The Hobbs had another ranch type, similar to the Blazer's, ready to sell in October 1970, making a total of eleven up to then.

The twelfth house was built by Jesse Bunch, a relative of the Harold Neeleys and is next door east to them.

He did it again! In the spring of 1971, Barney had another bi-level house built by Gary Smalley. Kleon and Rida Jinks from Forsyth purchased it. Kleon worked at Caterpillar and Rida at Borg-Warner Corp. They had four children - Sam, graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School, Hope in high school, and Faith and Jackie in grade school.

In mid-summer the Bunch house was ready for occupancy so Jesse and Maxine, formerly of Alton, and their six children moved in. Elainea went to Maroa-Forsyth High School, Tonia, Steven, and Jesse attended elementary school. Jessica and Lisa were preschoolers. Lisa spent time in Shriner's Hospital, St. Louis, with a defective hip. Jesse was a builder contractor so he built his own home.

Another move took place in August 1971. Kenneth and Louise Graves sold their home to Leo and Shirley Redman of Decatur. They had one daughter, Kelly, and she attended grade school. Leo was a barber in Brettwood shopping center.

The Hobbs' house on Lot No. 6 was sold to Larry and Barbara Mendenhall in August 1971. They had three children. Debra and Dawn attended grade school in Forsyth and Gregory was just eighteen months old. Larry was employed by Firestone.

Barney, with the help of Gary Smalley and others, built another bi-level on Lot No. 5 and this was purchased by Jack and Sue McClelland of Niantic. They had three children - Danny, in grade school and Suzette and Anetta at home. Jack is an ordained Baptist minister and is employed at Caterpillar.

Our neighbor to the west, Ruth Colburn, together with William Chapman of Decatur, built a very attractive bi-level on Lot No. 2. Gary Smalley was the contractor. In October, William and Rita Chapman moved into their new home. They had a son, Ted, just fifteen months old. William taught accounting at Millikin University in Decatur.

Lot No. 3 was sold to Norman Lehman of near Forsyth in fall 1971. Olin Copple is contractor for building a large four-bedroom ranch type home. We hope to see Norman and Cheryl and their two sons, Timothy and Jeremy who are preschoolers, move in before winter.

Back to the east end of Forsyth Estates, Jesse Bunch is building a house for Richard and Phyllis Doris. They have three children, Ricky, Cindy, and Roger and the welcome mat is waiting for them too, as of fall of 1971.

Things have progressed so well that in the coming year, 1972, the new street, Loma Drive, running east and west will be opened up and sixteen more lots will be ready for sale. Those lots will have their backs to the present lots along west Forsyth Road.

We are a happy community of people with a representation of several religious denominations, but I'm sure only one God. See Glattons 3:26-28.

This has indeed ~~been~~ *add names*
community so far and I ~~hope~~ *to list*
develop. I hereby ~~close~~ *people who live*
in Solbs
addition

the history of this
add to this as things
er 15, 1971.
y E. Blazer

Others who have built
as follows:

syth Estates" are

Robert and Martha Hot
Lucille Roney and Judy Crews
Harold and Lola Neely
Kenneth and Louis Graves
Jack and Betty Atchison
Jesse and Maxine Bunch
Harry and Barbara Mendenhall
Ruth Colburn
Norman Lehman

ers

John and Dorothy Blazer-July 68
James and Lena Slunder-1969
Michael and Betty Johnson 1970
Kenneth and Marie Barlow
Kleon and Rida Jinks
Jack and Sue McClelland
William Chapman

List of names is not complete?

✓ January 3, 1958 the residents of Forsyth voted 98-74 in favor of incorporating this area as a village. After Forsyth was incorporated they could share in property, motor fuel, and sales taxes to finance village street and light improvements.

The Peoples Party filed a full slate of officers for election March 4, 1958.

The first board meeting was held March 19, 1958 at the Hichory Point Fire House.

At this meeting it was decided we should have a census taken. Myrta Conner and Vivien Townsend were appointed. They found we had 410 residents living here at this time.

When the National Census was taken April, 1961 we had 424 residents.

The first major ordinance passed was the Zoning Ordinance No. 17. The Zoning Board was appointed, they held several meetings before they were ready to present the ordinance to the Board for adoption.

The Board has lots of projects for the future. They have just purchased street signs which will soon be installed. They are also planning to replace our present street lights with larger ones

Every meeting is a new experience. We have a lot of discussions on all the issues that are before the board.

The public is invited to attend any of the meetings, and sometimes we have a few interested town people. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month; 7:30 in the Forsyth Fire House.

Forsyth Becomes A Village

A State permits the organization of a village by charter. The charter sets forth the powers and duties of a local government.

Our government in Forsyth is classed as municipal government, and is the management of the affairs of organized local districts, such as villages. People living close together in a community need more and different services than those who live far apart on farms. To provide for these services residents in a community are permitted by a state to form a municipality. The municipality is allowed to govern itself. Its boundaries are laid out and a municipal government is set up by the inhabitants.

In order for a village to incorporate, the area must have 100 people and can not have its corporate limits within one mile of another citys corporation.

Forsyth was first platted in 1864 on land owned by Edward O. Smith. The first school was built the same year.

The community was named after Robert Forsyth, one time General Freight agent for the Ill. Central R. R.

Forsyth is headed by a President of the Board of Trustees. The local laws are called ordinances and are passed by the council which is composed of 6 members called trustees. All the offices are elected to serve four years. We also have a Village Clerk and Treasurer, Building Inspector, Dog Catcher, and a Village Attorney.

9/25/65

In the middle 50's the first "Little League" with players age 8 to 12 was organized followed later by the "P. O. N. Y." League with players age 12 to 16 to play baseball. Business managers were Evert Hinkle and Howard Walters and later Frank Fornwalt with ~~some~~ others since.

Harold Hupp Later, Tom Hupp President Little League Banner Walters
Pete Kupper - from 1960-1966

The first P O N Y league players to participate were

Joe Blazer

Jim Nickols

Allen Alexander

• Jim Rednath

Richard Kemmerer

Hank Hockaday

Eugene Lawrence OK

Gene Rose

Rodger Lewis

Larry Hayes

Mike Townson

Eddie Fore

Gene Lawrence

Skip Bass
Pat Townsend (Bat Boy)

Dave Hoffman

David Colpa

Howdie Hoyland

Re copy name
Parent name
and add manager
to little league

First P.O.N.Y. League team

COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY

A new community center for the village is now under construction. It will also include a library. It is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1983.

The site on which the community center and library is being built belonged to Mrs. Henrietta ~~Armstrong~~. Marion Broom, granddaughter of Mrs. ~~Armstrong~~, sold the Mowry home property to the village of Forsyth in the summer of 1982.

94 96

A softball team was organized for older players sometime later.

Among the players involved were the following: *that come to mind*

Paul Benton

Frank Cooper

Paul Gregory

Rodger James

James Current

William Current

Grundy Hupp

Robert Creason

Frank Crutcher Jr.

Sweat Walters

*Byron Walters
Elwood Jannett
Kenneth Fourness
Dale Hupp
Alva Current
Ross James
Howard Walters*

Home games were played at the Forsyth Grade School in the rear of the school. Games away from home were with surrounding towns and in Decatur under the sponsorship of the Decatur Recreation Department.

Basketball *need name of players - for both* *football*
Football games were also played with out of town teams in the Blazer and Lake pastures on Sunday afternoons. Only two or three football uniforms were available to the team.

basketball on court at back of school house -

9X

Some of the baseball players on Forsyth teams
that come to mind

Tom Luallen SR.

Earl Anderson

Frank Beck

Howard Butts

Jim Davis

Clifford McKay

William "Berty" Creekmur

Elbert Burns

Lawrence Thrift

Harold Elliott

Everett Parlier

Ed Parlier

~~Paul~~ Benton Jr.

Wayne Benton

John Blazer ,

Ross James

Howard Walters

~~Brown Walters~~

~~Bud Gossel~~

Harold Glosier

John Hanks

B. H. Ropper

~~Paul D. Ropper~~

Buck Ropper catcher

Harold Totten

Grundv Huon

Victor Walters

Dick Phillins

Merl Creekmur

Melvin Hiser

Henry Bennett

Hugh Binns

Olie Binfor

Clifford Berchfield

Don Berchfield

Ralph Gripe

Charles Kintner

Harold Hadderson

Frank Catcher Sr.

~~Paul D. Hadderson~~

Paul Doane

Harold Glosier

Everett Bud Gossell

Frank Schaefer

Among the ball players on the Forsyth teams were "Babe" Garrett
and his son Cecil from Arcana. Cecil Garrett later joined the
Chicago Cubs farm system and played for the Cubs at
Wrigley Field in Chicago.



Trump Printing, Inc.

1579 North Water Street • Decatur, Illinois 62526 • Telephone (217) 429-9001

April 14, 1983

Mr. Howard Walters
246 S. Smith
Forsyth, IL 62535

Dear Mr. Walters:

I have listed below some tentative prices for producing the Forsyth History book that you spoke to me about. I would recommend that you produce a minimum of 500 books. As you can see from the prices listed below the cost per book would be very high on a short run of this type.

100 Books

~~\$6500.00~~

Photos would
120 page

onal \$4.00 per
ed sheets. T
r to the tel

estimates.
tion.

John Kauffman
Book Joseph Del
History book
Jostens Printing
and Publishing
Division

John Wood

1957 Village trustee

Howard Walters
Robert Gillen (Oldest on Board)
Norman McKinney
Carl Schindler (Clerk)
Myrtle Conner (Barbara Current)
Otto Lushart.
Kenneth Flint (President)
Wayne Armstrong (Attorney)
Warren VanDrugg Engineer
Warren Hagan Engineer
Jim Upchurch Engineer
Building Inspector Joe Cooling
Zoning Board. Marvin Randle,
Clifford Lang, Dr. OTTs,
Otho Williams Current,
Harold Hupp, Charles Hinter,
Guy Webster (Mr. Sides)
(Mr. Vance)

Over.

JOSTENS

JON KAUFFMAN

impression



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100 Books

\$6500.00

500 Books

\$7000.00

Photos would be an additional \$4.00 per photo. This quote is based on a 120 page book or 60 2 sided sheets. This binding quote is for a perfect bound book which is similar to the telephone directory.

As I said above, these are estimates. Please let me know if you need additional prices or information.

Sincerely,

Dennis Trump

*Quotes from Brilleys Printing
same as above
their other ways that we
might save. Photos copy
would have to be retyped
3erox copy.
4-19-83*

1957 Village trustee

Howard Walters
 Robert Gillen (Oldest on Board)
 Norman McKinney
 Carl Schneider (Clerk)
 Myrtle Conner (Barbara Current)
 Otto Finkhart
 Kenneth Flint (President)
 Wayne Armstrong (Attorney)
 Warren Van Bragg Engineer
 Warren Hagan Engineer
 Jim Upchurch Engineer
 Building Inspector Joe Cooley
 zoning Board. Marvin Randle
 Clifford Long, Dr. OTs,
 Others William Current,
 Harold Hupp, Charles Hinton,
 Guy Webster (Mr. Sidler)
 (Mr. Vance)

Over.

John Kauffman

Book Joseph Del
 History book
 Jostens Printing
 and Publishing
 Division

John Wood

JOHN W. WOOD
 PUBLISHING CONSULTANT

1511 OGDEN BLVD.
 CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE 37040

PHONE 615 647 5211

1-483-3997

JON KAUFFMAN

JOSTENS

133 Carefree Drive
 Chatham, Illinois 62629

Other trustee

Glenn Townsend
 Dennis Pulliam
 Leonard Stone
 Emmitt Lewis
 John Jennings Jr.
 Albert Blager Jr.
 Fred Kilpper. Plus Free
 Pro Term 7 month.
 Board trustee, Ben Biley
 Hardy, Bob Gillen, Dave
 Howland, Larry Ormstead,
 Dave Rawlings, Hap.
 Gilbert, apply,
 Clerk Varnan Senger,
 Norma Emeryfest,
 Engineers, Brian Ridge,
 Geo. Mullenbach, Richard
 Northland Attorney

Victor Walters Building
Inspector, Byron Walters
Inspector,



159 E. MAIN STREET
DECATUR, IL 62523

Howard Walters
246 S. Smith
Forsyth, IL 62535

Dear Mr. Walters,

Sorry I took so long in figuring the costs of printing your book.

After careful thought I find the best way (for you + me) is to print on $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ sheets, both sides, and then spiral bind the sheets together. (See enclosed sheet)

Remembering that these are only "guesstimates", the more exact costs can be figured when you have a final copy ready to print. Please don't hesitate to call on us for more information (422-0236).

Thank "Q"

Russ -

1987

PUBLICATION AGREEMENT

1987

STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA/CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE/TOPEKA, KANSAS/VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

JOSTENS

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2. Provide my personal services for training the staff in the use of the Editor Kit tools and materials.
3. Provide assistance to the staff in the planning of content, layout, special effects and merchandising of the yearbook as required by the customer.
4. Work at all times within the framework of the customer's budget as set forth by the customer.

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(CUSTOMER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE)

DATE

X

JOSTENS REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

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DATE

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CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
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SHIP EDITOR KIT TO:	COVER: <u>Silkscreened/oe</u>	
	<u>Foil Stamped</u>	
	PAPER STOCK: <u>80# GLOSS</u>	
	PROOFS: <u>Page proofs</u>	
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